Chapter 11. Letterman General Hospital

Letterman General Hospital, the oldest named general hospital in the United States Army, was born of necessity because of the military occupation of the Philippine Islands. Expected to be but a temporary medical facility, it proved an enduring army medical institution. In its first full year of operation, the hospital cared for more than 5,000 soldiers. A year later it took care of the sick and wounded from the China Expedition sent to rescue Western legations in Peking during the Boxer Rebellion.

In 1906 the hospital threw open its doors to those in need from the devastating earthquake and fire that destroyed a large part of San Francisco. In the days and weeks after the disaster, the hospital staff assumed responsibility for sanitation in the city and in the refugee camps — a critical task accomplished with grace and efficiency.

During the years before World War I, improvement was slow while Letterman cared for troops leaving for and returning from the far Pacific and Hawaii. Epidemics such as measles repeatedly demanded the utmost from the doctors, nurses, and the enlisted men of the Hospital Corps. Letterman's responsibilities gradually expanded to include the western states, the Panama Canal Zone, and Alaska.

Named in honor of a great army doctor in the Civil War, Jonathan Letterman, the hospital lived up to his record for nearly a century of service. The largest general hospital in the U.S. Army down to 1918, Letterman was prepared to accept the increasing responsibilities thrust upon it in World War I. In just two years, 1918 and 1919, the hospital cared for more than 18,000 soldiers, including the seriously wounded returning from Europe. To handle the great influx of cases, the administration established East Hospital, an annex that more than doubled the patient facilities.

After the war, Letterman began a program for teaching interns, and added an important feature — an outpatient clinic. In 1923 the hospital dispatched a team of specialists to Japan to aid the victims of Tokyo's devastating earthquake. During the 1930s, the young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) who needed medical attention found it at Letterman. The 1930s saw considerable improvements in the hospital's physical plant — new nurses' quarters, more substantial wards, and other projects.

During World War II, Letterman's position on the Pacific coast made it the most critical army hospital for receiving sick and wounded from all over the Pacific theater and eastern Asia. The statistics proved staggering. In 1945 alone, Letterman General Hospital admitted more than 73,000 patients.

With the addition of the Crissy Annex hospital and the civilian Dante hospital, Letterman's bed capacity rose to 3,500. Toward the end of the war, it established a small stockade for Italian and German prisoners of war who assisted the hospital in laboring tasks. The Women's Army Corps became part of the hospital's complement and contributed greatly to the tasks at hand.

Peacetime was brief. First came the war in Korea, then Vietnam. Letterman Hospital's role in these conflicts was smaller than in World War II, but it was still important, especially in treating former American prisoners of war. In 1948 a surprised soldier was informed that he was the 300,000th person admitted to the hospital.

Letterman's services expanded throughout its history. Medical care for dependents became available through the addition of such fields as obstetrics and gynecology. The hospital's staff was responsible for the health of delegates from 51 nations at the Japanese Peace Conference held at San Francisco in 1951.

By the 1960s the surgeon general had placed a high priority on a new 10-story hospital building. Named the Letterman Army Medical Center, it was dedicated in 1969. Following soon after, the Letterman Army Institute of Research carried out research in such spheres as laser physics and artificial blood.

All this from a humble wood-frame hospital hastily constructed nearly a century earlier. Tens of thousands of military personnel and their dependents, active and retired, have benefitted from the existence of Letterman General Hospital.

Establishment of a Hospital, 1898–1905

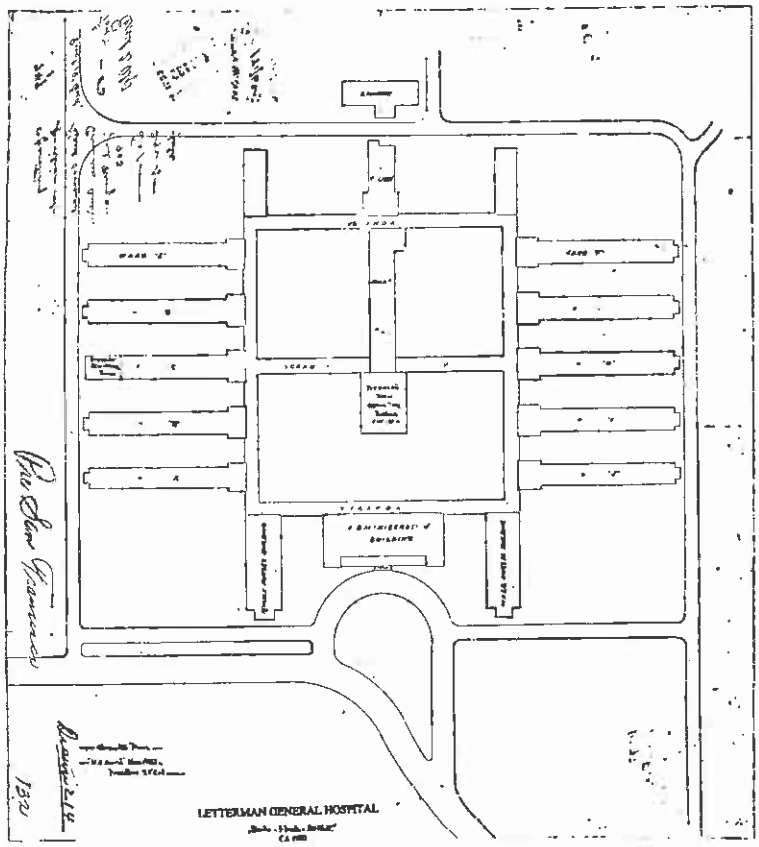
When the War Department ordered the formation of the 8th Army Corps† for service in the Philippine Islands, in May 1898, volunteer troops from many states assembled at San Francisco. In a short time, 22,000 men occupied Camp Merritt, from south of the Presidio to Golden Gate Park, but the area proved unsuitable as a cantonment. Cold winds, fog, drifting sand, and poor drainage wreaked havoc on the health of the command. The morning sick reports increased in length as typhoid fever, spinal meningitis, and pneumonia swept through the camp. While city hospitals provided care for the more serious cases, the tent hospital of 48 beds offered little comfort or relief from the cold for most patients. Finally, the chief surgeon of the Department of California, Col. Johnson V. D. Middleton, urged that the sick be removed to the new brick barracks at the Presidio. He also wrote to the surgeon general of the

One of two brick barracks on Montgomery Street served as facilities for the Army's Division Field Hospital in 1898 as volunteer troops prepared for service in the Philippines. The soldier with the kitten is a hospital steward. Those with sergeant stripes are acting hospital stewards. The others are privates in the Hospital Corps. Uniforms included a tan hat, dark blue blouse or coat with brass buttons, light blue-gray trousers with green stripes; the chevrons were green with white piping. Green was the "branch color" of enlisted medical personnel just as red signified artillery; yellow, cavalry; and white, infantry at that time. *E. Chesebro photograph, Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Army recommending construction of a 500-bed general hospital at San Francisco as soon as possible.[1]

The Division Field Hospital moved to the Presidio in July 1898, occupying two of the new brick barracks. An increase in the patient load resulted in the addition of eight hospital tents and three conical wall tents. Before long, four wood-frame barracks became part of the facility. Although overcrowding, inadequate water and plumbing in the wards, and poor ventilation made them far from satisfactory as a hospital, the barracks provided better facilities than the tent camp. In addition to the 6 medical officers, 90 enlisted men of the Hospital Corps, 33 contract nurses, and 10 Sisters of Mercy volunteers ministered to the ill.[2]

By the end of 1898, nearly all the volunteer troops had departed for the western Pacific, but those who contracted diseases overseas began to return to the United States. In a few more months, the bulk of those troops would begin the return journey. At the same time, the Army



Ground floor plan of Letterman General Hospital in 1903, when it was still called the U.S. Army General Hospital. The complex consisted of a series of pavilions and wards connected by covered corridors. *National Archives, Record Group 92, NPS drawing no. 641-20489.*

realized the need for regular troops in the Philippines, where insurrectionists complicated army administration. The need for a general hospital at San Francisco was still deemed urgent. On December 1, 1898, the War Department published General Orders 182, establishing the U.S. Army General Hospital — on paper — under the direct control of the Surgeon General, U.S. Army.

A board of officers, composed of Brig. Gen. Henry C. Merriam, commanding, Colonel Middleton, chief surgeon, and Maj. Charles B. Thompson, chief quartermaster, all on the Department of California staff, met to select a site for the urgently needed hospital. The board considered Angel Island, southern Fort Mason, and the Presidio drill field that the Army had built up just northeast of the main post. Believing that the hospital would be only temporary, the board selected the Presidio site as the most economical even while noting some objections.

The Army employed the architect W. H. Wilcox of San Francisco to prepare plans for a 300-bed pavilion-type hospital such as had been used by the British in the Crimean War

(1853–1856) and by the Union in the American Civil War. The plans called for wards, an administration building, an operating theater, kitchens and mess halls, a laundry, a boiler house for steam heating, and an electric plant surrounding a rectangle of covered verandas. Before construction started, the Army eliminated the operating theater (part of a ward would serve as such), and Brig. Gen. William B. Shafter, before his departure for Cuba, struck out the boiler house, electric plant, and laundry to reduce expenses. Surgeon Middleton wrote, after these cutbacks, "he [Shafter] forwarded the plans to the War Department and they seemed to be satisfactory, at all events the hospital was ordered to be built." Early in 1899, John T. Long won the construction contract with a bid of $113,340.[3]

Although construction of the hospital was incomplete, Maj. Alfred C. Girard took command in July 1899.[4] As volunteers returned from the Philippines in ever-increasing numbers, suffering from tropical diseases, the hospital proved its worth in a hurry. Major Girard had mixed emotions about his new command. "The location of the hospital has its advantages and disadvantages," he wrote. "The advantages are proximity to the city, to the post of the Presidio, and to the camps which were to shelter the troops assembling for duty in the Philippines and the volunteers returning therefrom. The disadvantages are exposure to the high winds and fogs...the low ground...the proximity to the liquor shops adjoining the Presidio." An anonymous account noted that Major Girard struggled with incompetent help, epidemics, shiploads of wounded, and swarms of mosquitoes and flies (the cavalry stables stood 400 yards to the west). The turnover among civilian contract surgeons was so frequent that they were more of a hindrance than a help. A critic wrote later, "The location of this site has often been regarded as the one great mistake in the hospital's formation."[5]

Throughout 1899, military patients continued to occupy both the barracks and the new hospital. During that year, 5,400 patients entered the facilities and 5,200 were discharged. Staffing consisted of 19 medical officers, 158 Hospital Corps enlisted men, and 36 nurses. The facilities' most serious drawback at this time was the lack of a power plant. Coal and kerosene stoves heated the buildings, and kerosene lamps provided lighting. The ten 40-man wards in the general hospital were divided into seven for general medical service, two for surgical, and one for venereal disease. Soldiers in the Presidio camps suffered from typhoid fever, measles, mumps, pneumonia, rheumatism, bronchitis, and venereal disease. Veterans from the Philippines brought home chronic diarrhea, dysentery, and malaria. The surgical service operated for hernia, appendicitis, gunshot wounds, hemorrhoids, and circumcision.[6]

Presidio of San Francisco, circa 1901. Note the new U.S. Army General Hospital, tent camps, and the growing West Cantonment. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

In early 1900, other troops passed through San Francisco en route to China, where the Boxer Rebellion threatened the foreign legations. In just two years, 1899 and 1900, about 80,000 enlisted men and 2,500 officers passed through the Presidio, and the general hospital treated all those in need. The largest number of patients in one day amounted to 1,040, on August 2, 1899. Plant improvements in 1900 included a power house, an ice machine, and a laundry. The addition of wooden sidewalks and tin roofing on the verandas improved the grounds. Hospital equipment was gradually improved. However, the patient load was large enough that the Presidio's barracks were still needed.[7]

In the following year, 1901, the hospital's functioning improved markedly, especially in the proficiency of the staff. The number of patients decreased as the volunteer troops returned to civilian life. Yet the Presidio barracks and tents continued to house patients. An intercom telephone system connected all the wards and the administration building. X-ray equipment, still primitive, came into use. The total number of cases treated during the year amounted to 3,180; of whom 92 died. Fire on June 10 caused a setback by destroying the patients' and the hospital corps' dining rooms, kitchens, storerooms, and two wards. Damage amounted to $56,000. A tent hospital with 45 tents sprang up to take care of the emergency.

Army ambulances carrying wounded or sick soldiers returned from the Pacific to the Army's general hospital at the Presidio of San Francisco, probably 1899 or 1900. Entering the Lombard Street gate. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

A month before the fire and a few months before his assassination, President William McKinley visited the general hospital and addressed the veteran-patients from the China Expedition. His visit was but the first of many by civil and military dignitaries.

Colonel Girard was transferred in June 1902, and Maj. William P. Kendall succeeded him as commander. Before Girard left, he had the pleasure of being the first occupant of the new commanding officer's quarters [1000], completed, along with a duplex officers' quarters [1001], in March.[8] Girard also supervised the suppression of a serious measles epidemic that had begun at the Presidio in December 1901:

December, 8 cases
January, 70 cases
February, 79 cases
March, 116 cases
April, 82 cases
May, 24 cases

Enlisted Hospital Corps personnel, U.S. Army General Hospital, circa 1901. Uniforms have green chevrons, piped in white for some ranks; a green Maltese cross piped in white; and green trouser stripes for noncommissioned officers. In 1902, the Army began a major change in uniform that included a different blouse and cap, and maroon piping on white in place of green as the branch color of medical personnel. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

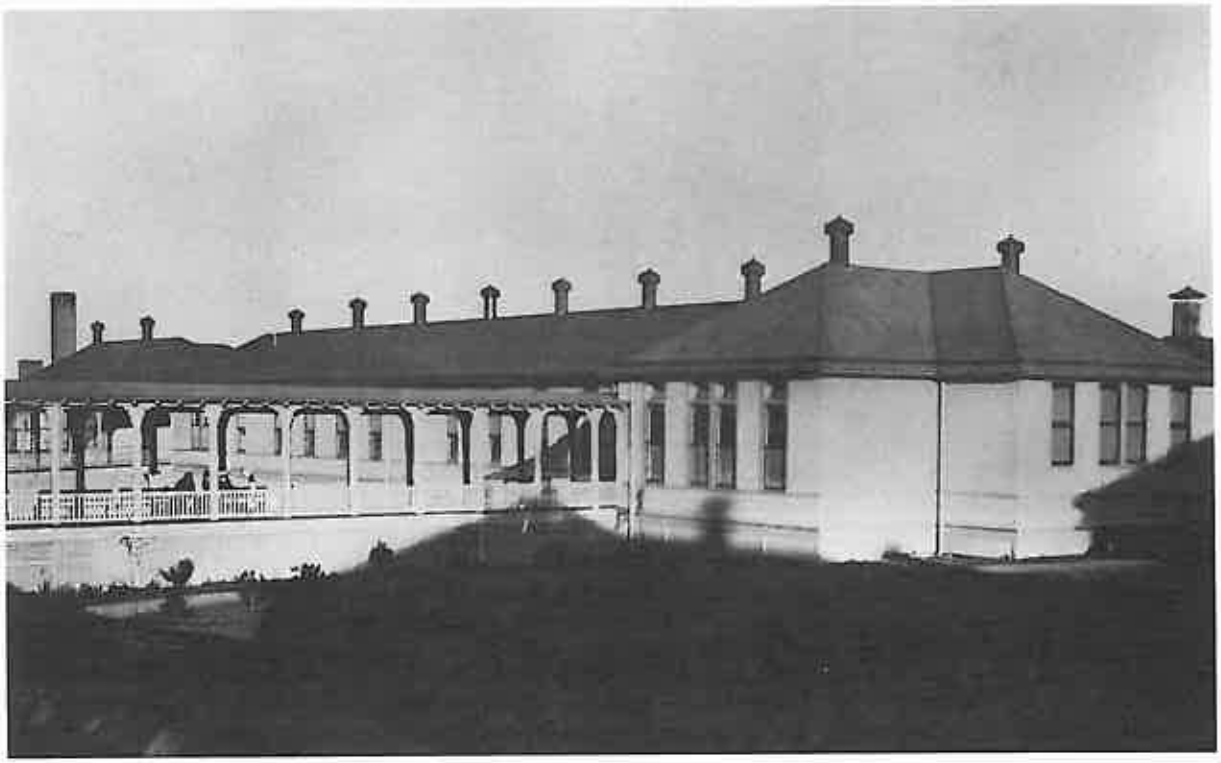
President William McKinley addressing a crowd at the new Army General Hospital on the Presidio military reservation in May 1901. *J. D. Givens photograph, Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

U.S. Army General Hospital, circa 1910. The building shown is either the female nurses' quarters west of the administration building, or one of two enlisted men's barracks east of the administration building. View toward the northeast. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

The measles patients were first isolated in two of the Presidio's barracks. In March, as the epidemic slowly began to decline, the patients were moved into the hospital. By the time it was suppressed in June 1902, the measles epidemic had claimed 18 lives.[9]

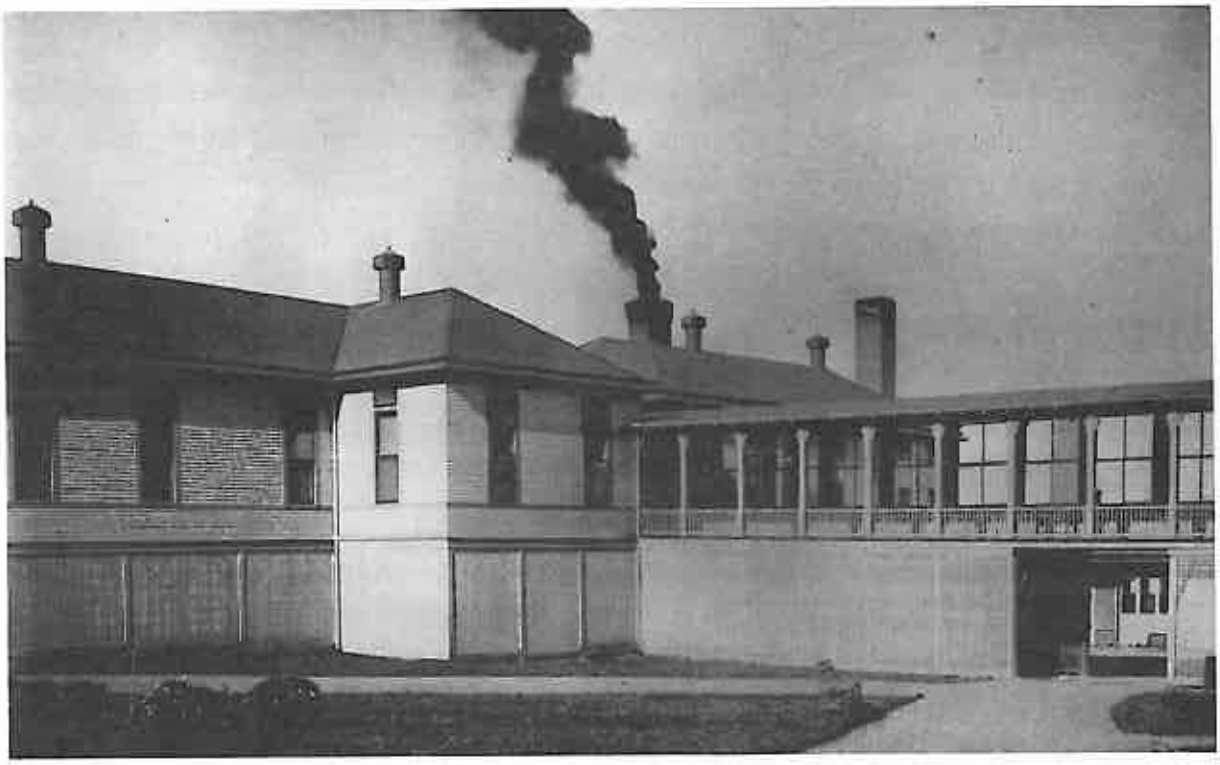
Letterman was the first army general hospital to employ women of the Army Nurse Corps, which was established in 1901. By 1902, the hospital staff comprised 41 of these nurses, along with 11 medical officers and contract surgeons and 180 enlisted men of the Hospital Corps. The nurses did not receive military commissions until much later; for the time being they received $40 a month.

When the total number of patients dropped precipitously — from 4,828 in 1902 to 2,252 in 1903 — the hospital turned one of the two brick barracks back over to the Presidio. At the same time, the physical plant was expanded with the addition of a storehouse, a second barracks for the enlisted men, and additions to the wards. The central veranda that bisected the



Above: U.S. Army Hospital, circa 1910. Covered corridors, forming a rectangle, joined the wards and other buildings. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Below: U.S. Army Hospital, circa 1910. Smoke indicates the hospital still burned coal. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*



courtyard was enclosed with glass, and painters spruced up the entire hospital. By 1903, the hospital maintained four messes: for nurses, Hospital Corps enlisted men, officer and civilian employees, and enlisted patients and civilian employees.[10]

For reasons that remain unclear, War Department General Orders 25, issued January 30, 1904, placed the hospital under the general supervision of the Department of California's commanding general, upon the recommendation of the surgeon general of the U.S. Army. In March 1904, Lt. Col. George H. Torney became the hospital's commanding officer. A most capable administrator, Torney presided over an important period in the hospital's evolution. Finally, an operating pavilion, whose construction had been canceled in 1898, was built. Located in the center of the quadrangle and considered a model of its kind, it cost $22,000. Other new construction that year included a guardhouse at the north end of the compound and an iron flagstaff in front of the administration building. Rebuilt roads and new sidewalks graced the grounds. A post exchange featuring billiard and pool tables became available for staff and patients alike.

Measles again brought a slight increase in the number of patients. More important, however, were changes in the general hospital's mission. "The large majority of all the medical cases treated during the year, contrary to former years, were admitted from the United States. This is explainable by the fact that prior to this year the Presidio Post Hospital [2] had served as a post hospital for all commands casually at the Presidio as well as for two regiments of infantry stationed at the [East and West] Infantry cantonments, which custom was discontinued in the early part of this year by the General Hospital being made to take up patients from these sources."[11]

The mean daily average of the sick load in 1904 dropped to 257, indicating that the general hospital no longer needed to make use of the Presidio's barracks. Even those suffering from the measles were kept in the hospital, in Ward A.[12]

Colonel Torney recorded further changes in the hospital's mission in 1905, writing that the hospital's aim "has been to develop a high standard of specialized professional services fitted to meet the demands of the Army. When the hospital was established its purposes were stated to be to receive the sick from troops en route to and from the Philippines and to care for patients transferred to the States from the Manila hospitals, and this was the hospital's only real reason for its existence up to the present year." But now, in addition to receiving all

Presidio of San Francisco, circa 1903-1907. East Cantonment is in the foreground. Above it, the U.S. Army General Hospital and, left of center, the main post. *Williard Worden photograph, Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

patients from the Presidio's garrisons, the general hospital's mission had increased significantly by the handling of special cases from all over the United States — obscure diseases; serious surgical cases; and eye, ear, nose, and throat cases throughout western military installations, and all dental work in the Department of California.[13]

The hospital staff in 1905 consisted of 11 medical officers, 156 enlisted men, and 39 army nurses. In August Dora E. Thompson replaced Helene M. Gottschalk, who had served for the past four years, as head nurse. Although the nurses' quarters were still inadequate, a third floor had been added to the administration building [1016] to serve as bachelor officers' quarters for the medical officers at a cost of $6,776. At the beginning of 1905 the hospital held 330 patients; at the end of the year it held 303. Thirty-eight deaths occurred that year.[14]

Previous administrators had made several attempts to create a coherent organization among the separate services in these early years. Then, around 1905, Colonel Torney published the comprehensive "Rules and Regulations for U.S. Army General Hospital." Thirty pages of fine

print set forth the organization, duties, administration, fire protection, and procedures for all personnel. These regulations overlooked little. They specified how a nurse should be evaluated for promotion. The names of patients being photographed had to be accurately recorded. Enlisted attendants had responsibility for sanitation in the wards, including the floors, windows, bedpans, spit cups, toilets, and lavatories. No one could chew tobacco in a ward. Rheumatic patients being considered for transfer to the Army and Navy General Hospital at Hot Springs, Arkansas, for treatment in the waters had to be thoroughly inspected for gonorrhea. Also, patients or Hospital Corps men awaiting trial by summary court martial were confined to the hospital guardhouse when necessary.

Still other regulations concerned security. A guard near the front door of the administration building was to refuse admission to unauthorized people, direct legitimate visitors to the officer of the day to obtain a pass, check patients going on leave for their passes, and ensure that such patients departed and returned through only that door. Guards locked the hospital's gates at retreat and unlocked them at reveille. At night, other guards checked all doors and windows to be sure they were locked.[15]

Thus did the U.S. Army General Hospital evolve in five short years. It sprang up on the lower Presidio to treat thousands of soldiers departing for and returning from the Philippines, China, and Hawaii. Despite inadequate or nonexistent facilities in the beginning, its staff gradually improved the hospital's services and its professionalism. In a short time it became responsible for the large garrisons at the Presidio and Fort Mason as well. In its fifth year, the hospital also acquired the responsibility of treating special cases from army installations all over the United States.

The Hospital is Named and Expanded, 1906–1917

The year 1906 began with the ordinary routine at the general hospital. Then, just before dawn April 18, a tremendous earthquake struck, and a terrible fire immediately swept through San Francisco. Units from U.S. Army posts in the Bay Area immediately came to the aid of the stricken city, and military supplies were shipped to California from around the nation. Col. George Torney at the general hospital immediately organized his resources to assist in efforts to care for the steady stream of sick and injured citizens coming from downtown, including the unconscious fire chief, Dennis Sullivan. Attendants crammed beds together to make room for more, and they set up an additional operating pavilion. Volunteer

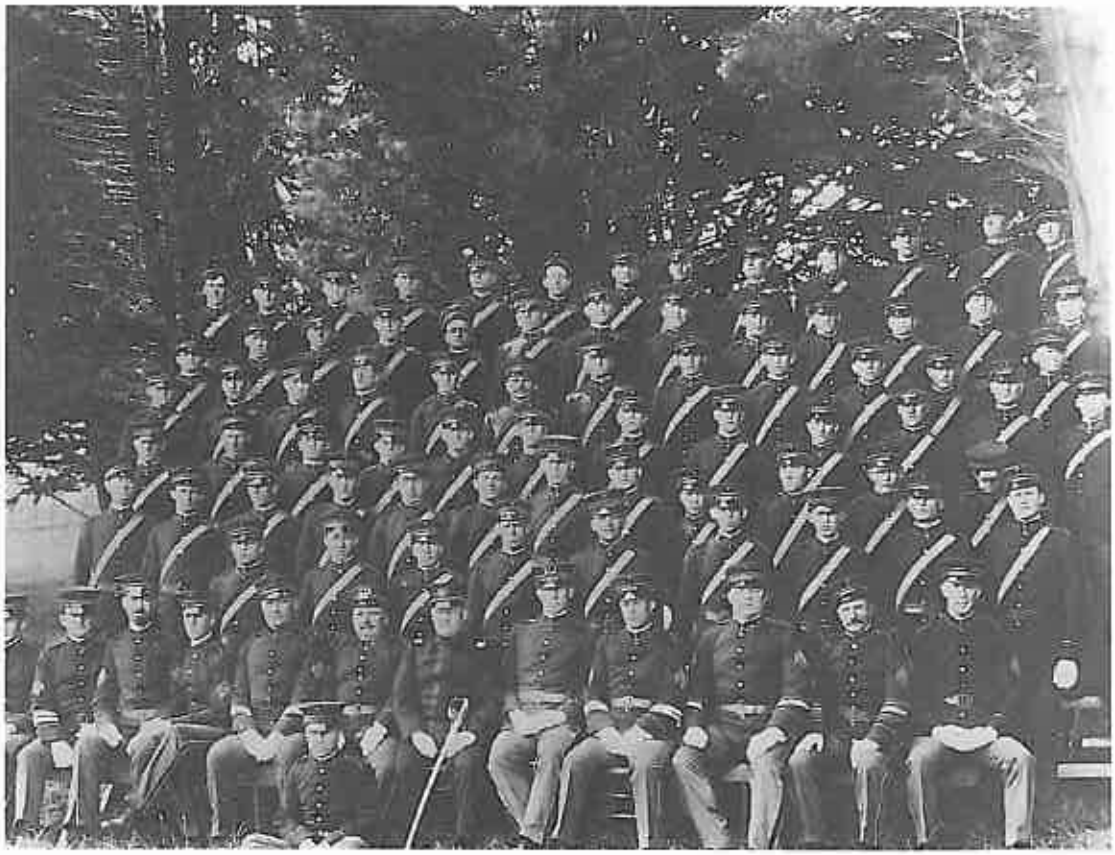
civilian medical personnel came to the hospital to help. By April 20, an army doctor reported that the hospital had taken in 200 civilians. The staff cared for them in the wards, halls, and porches, and on the grounds. One history recorded that Mrs. Frederick Funston, the wife of the commanding general of the Department of California, came to the hospital (she had lost her own home to the fire) and made the rounds with Colonel Torney, demanding that the utmost effort be made to care for the victims.[16]

Colonel Torney took charge of sanitation throughout the city and in the hastily established refugee camps. He received full authority to draw up and enforce the necessary regulations, and through his capable staff he supervised all sanitary work. Throughout the emergency the hospital's medical officers inspected the camps and enforced strict measures concerning sanitation. Given much credit for his efforts in this disaster, Torney later was "jumped" over several senior doctors to become surgeon general of the U.S. Army from 1909 to 1913.[17]

While San Francisco began its recovery from the devastating earthquake, the hospital suffered a minor disaster of its own when the laundry building burned to the ground early in May. The records do not disclose how this setback was overcome except to say that it severely hampered medical service for a time.[18]

Following San Francisco's recovery from the earthquake and fire, the hospital returned to its traditional mission. An anonymous source described the hospital during that period as "a base hospital for the Philippines and Hawaii, a post hospital for the Presidio, Fort Winfield Scott [established in 1912], and several smaller posts in the harbor of San Francisco, and a general hospital for the western part of the country." In 1907, Maj. William W. Harts of the Corps of Engineers prepared an elaborate master plan for the future expansion on the Presidio military reservation. Recalling the hospital's earliest days — on the edge of a swamp, facing a dusty plain, and on low ground — he proposed abandoning the existing plant and constructing a new general hospital near the reservation's southern boundary, land on which the Presidio golf course had been established. However, the hospital remained where it was.[19]

In 1911, when Lt. Col. James D. Glennan commanded the hospital, the War Department issued general orders naming it in honor of the late army surgeon Maj. Jonathan Letterman. Born in Pennsylvania in 1824, the son of a doctor, Letterman graduated from a Philadelphia medical school. He entered the Army as an assistant surgeon in 1849. His first assignment took him to Florida to participate in the Third Seminole War campaigns from 1849 to 1853.



Hospital Corps enlisted personnel at the Army General Hospital, Presidio of San Francisco, circa 1906-1910. *U.S. Army Military History Institute.*

Later, Letterman was transferred to the Department of the Pacific for service in New Mexico, Arizona, and California. In the spring of 1860 he arrived at Fort Tejon, 150 miles northeast of Los Angeles. Almost immediately he accompanied the 1st Dragoons to the Mojave Desert, where Camp Cady protected the route to Salt Lake City during the campaign against the Paiute Indians. He next moved to Camp Fitzgerald at Los Angeles in 1861.

When the Civil War began in 1861, like many other regular officers, Letterman went east to participate. Promoted to major surgeon in April 1862, he became the medical director of the Army of the Potomac. He promptly reorganized that Army's ineffective medical service by setting up forward first-aid stations, mobile field hospitals, general hospitals, an ambulance corps, and the medical supply system. Letterman made use of the doctrines of Baron Larrey, Napoleon's chief medical officer, and adapted them to conditions in the Civil War. He placed great emphasis on rapid evacuation of the wounded, which saved a great many lives. Four-wheel ambulances replaced the former two-wheel carts. Enlisted men, trained by the Medical

Duplex officers' quarters, field grade, officers' row, Letterman General Hospital. Photograph was taken prior to porches being enclosed in 1913. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Department, took the place of hired civilians. Letterman adopted the pavilion-type hospital that the British had employed in the Crimean War. The general hospital later built at the Presidio was a pavilion-type hospital which in turn served as a model for hospitals built in the American Expeditionary Force in World War I.

Letterman's organization and procedures so improved medical service in battle that they were later enacted into law for the U.S. Army, and soon his scheme was adopted by major armies in other countries.

Major Letterman resigned from the United States Army in December 1864 because of poor health and also because of the dismissal of his friend and commander, Surg. Gen. William A. Hammond. After resigning, the doctor moved to San Francisco to practice medicine. In 1867 he became coroner for San Francisco, and a year later he accepted the position of surgeon general for the State of California's military organizations. The Regents of the University of California elected him to the university's board of medical examiners in 1871, the same year

Officers' row, Letterman General Hospital, 1914. The commanding officer's quarters, 1000, is nearest the camera, then 1001, 1002, 1003, and 1004. View toward the north. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

he became a member of the first class of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion. That December Letterman retired. He died March 15, 1872, at the age of 48. His daughter later had his remains moved to Arlington National Cemetery.[20]

Various improvements and additions had been made to the hospital during its first decade, yet a serious deficiency remained — the lack of quarters for the noncommissioned officers. The hospital's quartermaster officer, Capt. H. B. McIntyre, wrote in 1910 that he rented quarters for nine noncommissioned officers attached to the hospital in the nearby community. The quartermaster general, however, had not approved any leases for the current fiscal year and the nine noncommissioned officers were paying rent out of their own pockets — an average of $23.50 a month — which they could ill afford. McIntyre described one sergeant's arrangements as "situated in the low-lying, unhealthy district of lower Lombard Street. The houses in this vicinity are almost exclusively occupied by colored people and low class foreigners, and, during high water, excreta and other refuse from the sewer back up into the drains." The Army's solution to this situation has not been found. An inspection a few months later revealed that four sets of quarters remained a requirement for the noncommissioned officers.[21]

The 1911 inspection report also listed other structures that the hospital required: a storehouse for combustibles, a new kitchen, new stables, and another quartermaster storehouse. Some additional structures were erected during this period, notably quarters for medical officers and for nurses. Officers' row, east of the hospital, was completed in 1908 with the addition of

Above: U.S. Army General Hospital, circa 1910. From left to right: nurses' quarters, administration building, 116, two enlisted men's barracks, and one-story insane ward. Wards are at the extreme right. View toward the north. *From an undated postcard. Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Below: The same central buildings as in the previous photograph. The smoke stack is at the hospital power plant. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

three duplexes. An interesting note was that the northernmost set of quarters housed not an officer but the hospital's sergeant major, a mark of respect for this important personage. New housing was constructed for the army nurses: two concrete buildings with clay tile roofs, one three-story and the other four-story. Later numbered 1022 (built in 1915) and 1024 (built in 1916), they formed parts of Thompson Hall, now demolished.

Col. Frederick Von Schrader's inspection listed some of the vehicles employed by the hospital:

> Station wagon, for meeting trains and transportation of officers to and from the depot
>
> Wagonette, for taking children to and from school and for same purposes as station wagon
>
> Express wagon, for baggage and marketing
>
> Two delivery wagons, one used for delivering supplies to offices from the commissary, the other used as milk and ice wagon
>
> Two ambulances, field, for conveying patients to and from hospital and for emergency calls
>
> Ambulance, city, rubber tired, for same purposes as field ambulances in more serious cases
>
> Cart, dump, for removing dry garbage and for general police work
>
> Cart, sanitary, for removing garbage
>
> Two carts, hand, used by organizations for hauling commissaries and other supplies

In addition to these vehicles, Letterman Hospital experimented with "motor ambulances" in 1912. Alas, "they were not a success," the automotive industry's technology being in its infancy.[22]

Between the San Francisco Earthquake and World War I, Letterman became the largest general hospital in the U.S. Army, though that changed with the extraordinary needs of the Great War. The average annual admittance of patients hovered at 3,000. In fiscal year 1916 the hospital admitted 3,195 patients including general prisoners and civilians. That year 74 deaths occurred in addition to the tragic deaths in the Pershing family in a house fire. The operating

Front view of the Army General Hospital that was named Letterman General Hospital in 1911. The tallest building, at the center, is the administration or headquarters building, 1016. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

pavilion carried out 771 operations. The hospital began a new service in 1916 — orthopedics.[23]

World War I and the 'Thirties, 1917–1939

Although Letterman Hospital lay far from the conflict in Europe in 1917, it was an important army hospital during and following World War I. The U.S. Army mobilized and trained troops in California and throughout the west. One result was increased admissions at Letterman. For the two years of American involvement in the war, 1917 and 1918, Letterman admitted a total of 18,700 patients, three times its annual load for the past several years and the largest number of admissions ever. Once the fighting stopped, Letterman's mission continued to increase as the stream of wounded and sick soldiers arrived from Europe. In 1919, the total admissions reached 12,400.[24]

At the beginning of the war, the U.S. Army had four general hospitals: Letterman; the Walter Reed General Hospital, District of Columbia, founded in 1909; the General Hospital at Fort Bayard, New Mexico established in 1900; and the Army and Navy General Hospital, Hot Springs, Arkansas, established as a general hospital in 1887. However, the Army and Navy

hospital cared for arthritis and rheumatism cases and Fort Bayard was used solely for the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis. Only Letterman and Walter Reed were truly general hospitals.

The commanding officer of Letterman during the war years, Col. Guy L. Edie, had been the personal physician of President William H. Taft. Under his administration, Letterman's bed capacity reached 2,200. In 1918, Letterman was one of the army hospitals selected to establish a unit of the Army School of Nursing.[25] One of the more important wartime developments at Letterman was its designation as an Orthopedic Center for amputation cases from the American Expeditionary Force. Forty-six amputee cases arrived at Letterman from Europe between April 1, 1918, and June 30, 1919. The surgeon general also established a division of neurology and psychiatry at Letterman. During the war the hospital also specialized in the treatment of venereal disease.[26]

The United States' entry into the war resulted in an increase in the number of sick and wounded being admitted to Letterman Hospital and an increase in the hospital staff[27]:

		Personnel on Duty		
	Sick and Wounded Admissions	**Medical Officers**	**Enlisted Men**	**Nurses**
April 1917	732	24	190	48
August 1917		32	302	67
October 1917	1,679			
April 1918	1,665	37	377	103
August 1918	1,879			
December 1918	1,943	61	658	182
April 1919	2,153	88	668	107
August 1919	2,751	80	608	104
December 1919	1,770	80	574	113

Letterman had a casualty of its own in October 1919, after Col. Robert M. Thornburgh replaced Colonel Edie as commanding officer. Thornburgh had seen service in the Philippine Islands, the Mexican Punitive Expedition, and France. On October 10 he attended a dinner honoring Herbert Hoover at the Bohemian Club in San Francisco. As he returned to his quarters, Thornburgh was killed when his automobile was hit by a municipal bus at 19th Avenue and Lincoln Way.[28]

Surgical ward and operating solarium. Letterman General Hospital. *From an undated postcard. National Park Service.*

Letterman Hospital's physical plant underwent great changes during the war, almost doubling in size. On the former drill field to the east sprang up a complex consisting of 18 patient wards, two barracks for Hospital Corps men, a kitchen and mess hall building, and a Red Cross building. Soon this area became known as East Hospital. At the main hospital many changes took place. New construction included a psychopathic ward for 100 patients, a stable for 28 animals, a garage holding 12 ambulances, permanent barracks for 75 men, four temporary barracks each holding 67 men, another nurses' dormitory with 60 rooms, an additional dining room for 300 men, and still another dining room and kitchen for 500 men. Additions were made to the disinfecting and sterilization plant and to the power and heating plant. Painters put a fresh coat on the exteriors of all the buildings and most of the interiors. Old roads were macadamized and new roads were built.

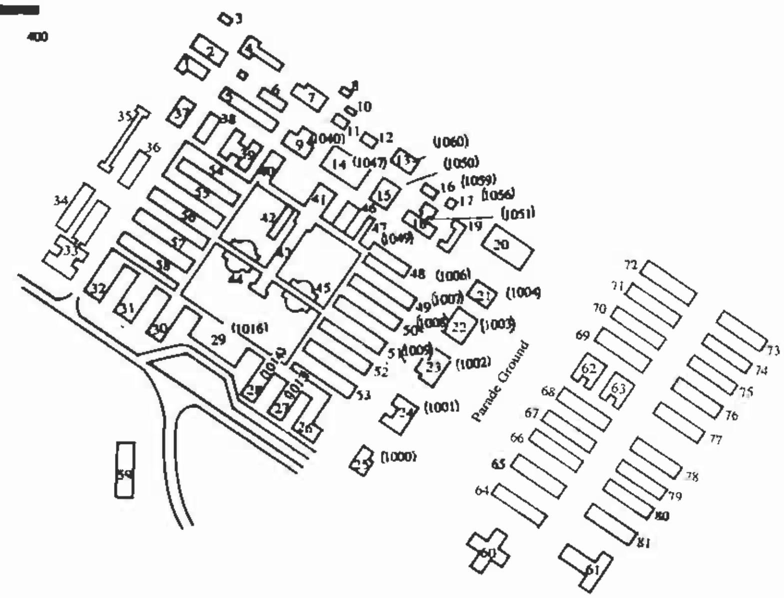
The Army's Medical Department praised the new psychopathic ward [1050] as a vast improvement in the care of mental patients, who previously had been housed in the overcrowded detention ward [1051] along with general and garrison prisoners. The new building opened to patients on October 17, 1918. In contrast to the detention ward, with its barred doors, windows, and cells, the psychopathic ward had no bars, and patients stayed in rooms

LETTERMAN GENERAL HOSPITAL
World War I
1918

Presidio of San Francisco

reference north

0 25 50 100 200 400
SCALE IN FEET



LEGEND

1	Garage	31	Post Exchange
2	Shop	32	Officer's Ward
3	Crematory	33	Nurses
4	Stable	34	Temporary Nurses
5	Storehouse	35	Temporary Ward
6	Garage	36	Nurses Recreation
7	Shop	37	Isolation Ward
8	Hot Well	38	Special Cases Ward
9	Power House	39	Ward
10	Shed	40	Baggage
11-12	Storehouses	41	Kitchen
13	Medical Storehouse	42-43	Mess
14	Laundry	44-45	Operating Solariums
15	Psychopathic	46	Ward
16	Storehouse	47	Bakery
17	Animals	48	Laboratory
18	Detention Ward	49-58	Wards
19	Greenhouse	59	YMCA
20	Tennis Court	60	Red Cross
21-25	Officers Row	61	Kitchen and Mess
26-28	Barracks	62-63	Barracks
29	Administration	64-81	Wards
30	Nurses		

NOTES:

1 Basic quadrangle from Major W W Harts, CE *Presidio of San Francisco*, 1907

2 Schematic drawing of buildings is not to scale

3 Building identification from

Weed, F W *The Medical Department, U S Army*, Military Hospitals in the United States, vol 5, pg 491

4. Bracketed Numbers-Extant Buildings 1995

Letterman General Hospital in 1918. *Basic quadrangle from Major W. W. Harts, CE,* Presidio of San Francisco 1907, *National Archives, Record Group 92. Building identification from F. W. Weed,* The Medical Department, U.S. Army, Military Hospitals in the United States, *vol. 5, p. 491. NPS drawing no. 641-20490.*

and dormitories around the outside, "hotel fashion." The many windows and air shafts provided adequate ventilation. Offices and hallways had hardwood floors, while other floors were colored concrete. A dormitory for sick patients on the second floor had a screened porch where patients enjoyed the air and a view of the bay. A complete hydrotherapeutic department occupied the basement. After the signing of the armistice, the hospital began to receive large numbers of cases returning from France and Siberia, and this ward, originally designed for 60 patients, had as many as 130 men at one time.[29]

Other buildings existing by 1919 included a greenhouse, solariums in the central court, a crematory (for trash), a bakery, a tennis court, a small building for experimental animals, a stage for entertainment, and three long runways for orthopedic patients. Construction materials included both wood frame and concrete covered with stucco. (Brick construction, which had proven unstable during the 1906 earthquake, was avoided.) Across the road to the south, the YMCA erected a building that offered aid and comfort to the hospital.

By the end of World War I, the U.S. Army operated 84 hospitals in the United States:

48 general hospitals (four named, the rest numbered)
33 base hospitals
3 miscellaneous hospitals

The Army prepared a schedule for abandoning most of the hospitals and reducing the number of beds in the others. By October 30, 1920, the number of available beds had been reduced to 3,750 in only five general hospitals:

	War Capacity	Reduction	Permanent Capacity
Walter Reed General Hospital	2,000	500	1,500
Letterman General Hospital	2,200	1,500	700
Army and Navy General Hospital	266	16	250
General Hospital 19, Oteen, North Carolina	1,300	800	500
General Hospital 21, Denver, Colorado	1,603	803	800[30]

In 1921, when matters had settled somewhat, a report summed up the situation at Letterman General Hospital:

Above: Letterman General Hospital 1926. World War I East Hospital is at lower right. Presidio wharf is on bay front. *National Archives photograph.*

Below: Letterman Hospital, February 13, 1930. YMCA building is visible through the trees (later a noncommissioned officers' club and a service club). Portion of East or Presidio Terrace officers' quarters is in the lower left corner. *National Archives photograph.*

56	permanent buildings
29	temporary buildings
41	medical officers
58	nurses
108	student nurses
177	civilians
484	enlisted men[31]

In the years between wars, Letterman General Hospital continued to improve both its plant and its missions. Although the number of beds was reduced by 1921, admissions never fell back to the pre-war annual average of 3,000. Rather, increases were fairly common:

Year	Number of Admissions
1920	4,988
1925	6,107
1930	6,404
1935	4,842
1939	6,474

Patients now came from the Western states (Ninth Corps Area), the Philippines, Hawaii, Alaska, China, and military installations in Panama. In 1924 an Intern Training Program began for budding doctors. About that same time, the hospital originated an outpatient clinic. Beginning in 1933, Letterman treated the young men in the Civilian Conservation Corps in the Ninth Corps Area. In 1920, army nurses acquired the relative rank of officers (but not the commissions) and wore the appropriate insignia. Some noncommissioned officers continued to live in the city and received an insufficient 75 cents a day to help defray expenses, but a few married soldiers had quarters in one of the wards that had been converted for that purpose. In September 1923, the hospital sent a detachment of 39 personnel to Japan for relief after the great earthquake devastated Tokyo and Yokohama. They returned to San Francisco in December.[32]

In 1929, two descriptions of the hospital emerged that, at first glance, seemed contradictory. According to a history of the U.S. Army's Medical Department, Letterman was "the hospital for reception and definitive treatment of the more serious cases of the army stationed on the Pacific coast and nearer states and for the sick returned from trans-Pacific stations. It has 1,000 beds, abundant medical, dental, nursing, and enlisted personnel, is beautifully situated and well arranged." About the same time Brig. Gen. Wallace DeWitt, the hospital's commander, described the buildings as constructed of wood frame, stucco, and concrete. He considered the concrete structures excellent buildings that should be retained. As for the others, he con-

Above: Palace of Fine Arts in front of Letterman General Hospital, 1923. A portion of the World War I wards, called East Hospital, appears at the left. *National Archives photograph.*

Below: Letterman General Hospital, circa 1924-1936. Left to right: officers' row (Col. Kennedy's house at top), wards across street with laboratory (long, 2 story, hipped roof), YMCA (2 story, near trees), operating pavilion (light roof), mess hall behind kitchen (flat roof), laundry and powerhouse (with chimney). Rifle range on hill (left rear) and Main Post (right rear). *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

cluded that these should be replaced: "The frame and stucco buildings are old, and, with the exception of the Officers' Quarters and Noncommissioned Officers' Quarters [perhaps in converted wards], [they] do not meet modern requirements and constitute a potential fire hazard." DeWitt was the first to argue for modern facilities, but had he been asked, he probably would have agreed that Letterman's mission was ever more important and that the Presidio of San Francisco was indeed beautifully situated and well arranged.[33]

DeWitt's words must have struck at least a small nerve in Washington. The construction quartermaster at San Francisco reported that in fiscal year 1930 he had built at Letterman a $50,000 concrete ward [1009] to replace the original wood-frame ward "H," and two additions to the nurses' quarters (Thompson Hall—buildings 1020, 1022, 1024, and 1026—no longer extant) at a cost of $69,000. The following year, three more concrete wards, including current building 1008 replacing old wood-frame ward "G," and a new ward, current building 1012, were finished and cost another $150,000. Other construction valued at $115,000 was underway.[34]

The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported on April 24, 1938, that the depression-era Works Progress Administration had authorized almost $2 million for construction on the Presidio reservation. Of that amount $345,000 was slated for Letterman General Hospital, in addition to work worth $117,500 that had been completed at the hospital in 1937 and 1938. As war clouds gathered in Europe and Asia, Letterman began to stir anew as the United States considered expanding its armed forces while maintaining a neutral stance in the affairs of nations.[35]

World War II, 1940–1945

World War II in the Pacific brought a vast increase in Letterman General Hospital's responsibilities as hospital ships brought home tens of thousands of sick and wounded from far-flung battlefields, from the Aleutian Islands to the southwest Pacific. After the war began in 1939, the United States increased its military strength sharply. The first peacetime draft began in September 1940. At the Presidio of San Francisco the Army began a substantial program for temporary housing on November 1, 1940. Of the five areas on the reservation selected for emergency construction, three in the lower Presidio would have a strong association with Letterman General Hospital:

> Area A, on the bay front between Marine Drive and Mason Street and east of Crissy Field. It contained 10 two-story, wood-frame barracks, two one-story dayrooms, an

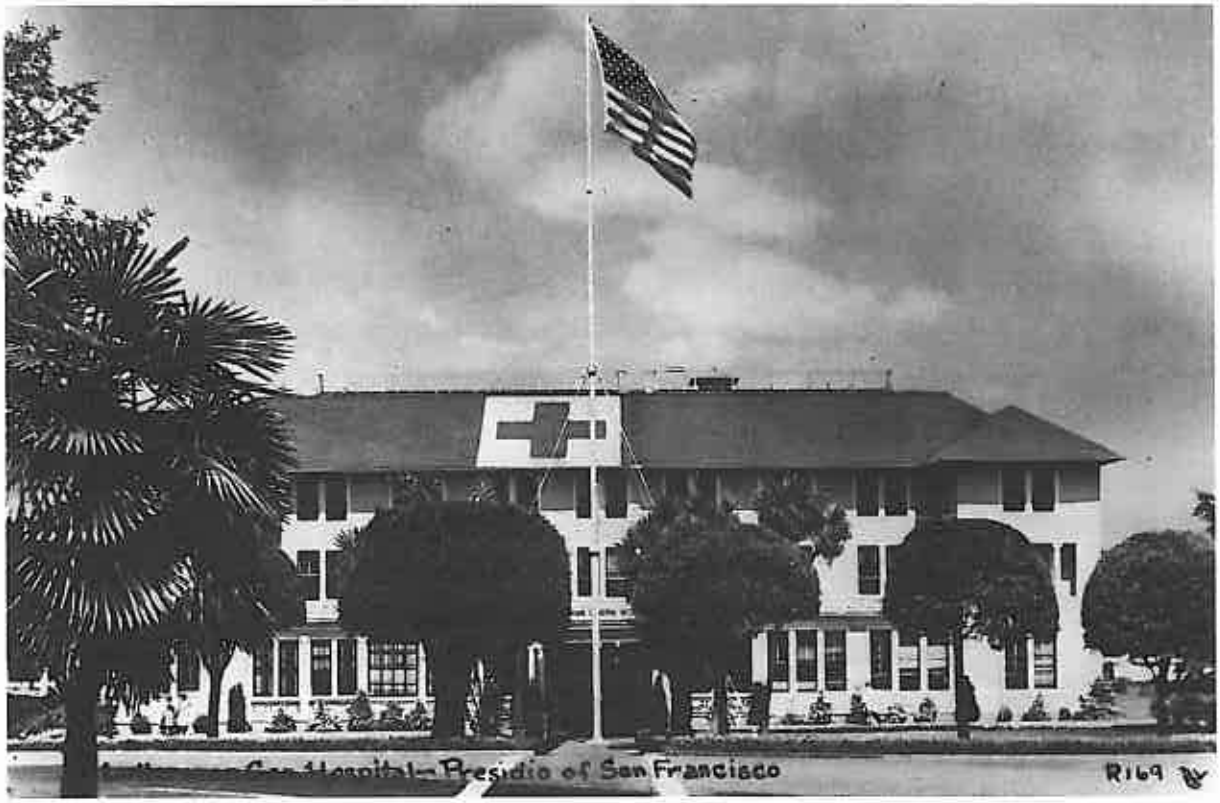
Left to right: Buildings 1014, 1013 and 1012, built between 1924 and 1933 and east of the administrative building. Building 1014 served as an outpatient clinic, while 1013 and 1012 contained wards. Earlier, wooden buildings on these sites served as enlisted men's barracks. View toward the east. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, 1991.*

administration building, a post exchange, three combination company administration and storehouse (supply room) buildings, and two mess halls. (Later, in 1941, additional structures in this area consisted of five barracks, two administration-storerooms, a 250-man mess hall, and a recreation building.)

Area B, on the bay front between Marine Drive and Mason Street and west of Crissy Field. It had a similar combination of structures except that a large warehouse replaced the administration building.

Area C, between Mason Street and the Golden Gate Bridge approach and south of Crissy Field. This area had similar mobilization-type structures but was much smaller than the other two. In 1945 Area C housed Letterman's detachment of the Women's Army Corps (WACs).

Construction was completed by March 1941, and the contractor received final payment (for a total contract of $298,300). Painters applied a gray color to the buildings from ground level to the water table and to the trim, and a cream color to the rest of the buildings.[36]



Headquarters, Letterman General Hospital, 1016. Date unknown, possibly 1930s. *National Park Service.*

Letterman decided in the fall of 1940 that in order to meet the needs of an expanding military force, it would no longer receive admissions from the Veterans Administration. It reduced the number of CCC enrollees accepted for treatment (20 percent of the patients had been coming from the CCC). At that time the hospital counted 59 permanent structures and 27 temporary structures; of these, 33 wards had a normal capacity of 904 beds and a maximum capacity of 1,191 beds. The 1940 patient load at the hospital amounted to about 9,000. Early in 1941, the surgeon general announced that Letterman and Walter Reed general hospitals, as well as the Army and Navy Hospital at Hot Springs, Arkansas, would establish facilities to care for cases of resection and amputation requiring the fitting of prostheses.[37]

Japanese aircraft attacked military installations on Oahu Island in Hawaii on December 7, 1941. By the end of December, Letterman's emergency bed capacity had increased to 1,589. On December 31, the first convoy of patients from Hawaii arrived in San Francisco. The hospital's annual report for 1941 added a new purpose to its mission: Because of the Japanese attack, Letterman was now in the combat zone, and it served the triple function of port of embarkation hospital, general hospital, and evacuation hospital.

The 48 acres now contained 100 buildings. Seven buildings that had housed enlisted men had been converted to wards, bringing the number to 40 (with a total of 1,471 beds). Construction completed in 1941 included three Special Service schools and their administration building, six barracks, a storehouse, a new bakery, and over at East Hospital a mess for 1,000. During 1941 Letterman admitted 12,290 patients, of whom 103 died.[38]

In 1942 battle casualties and tropical disease cases arrived from the Pacific. A special emergency developed when the hospital admitted 600 patients suffering from acute hepatitis associated with jaundice after they had been inoculated with yellow fever vaccine. Six of these patients died. By the end of 1942 Letterman had occupied at least Area A east of Crissy Field, mostly as quarters for its growing enlisted men staff. The hospital now had 43 wards (with a total of 1,627 beds), nine officers' quarters, and accommodations for 150 nurses. It operated no fewer than seven messes: officers', general, ward, nurses', ambulatory patients', East Hospital, and Crissy Annex. The seven professional divisions were: medical, surgical, outpatient, radiological, dental, laboratory, and nursing. There had been substantial peaks of patient admissions before, but a new high was reached this year — 20,881 patients, of whom 107 died.[39]

In 1941 the hospital began an in-house newspaper called *Fog Horn, Letterman General Hospital*, an upbeat paper intended for distributing information, raising morale, and possibly for use by future historians. An issue might run articles on military government, the Army Hour radio program, nurses' column, the soldier of the week, Purple Heart awards, sports, or the medical detachment. From time to time it contained longer, historical articles, like the September 13, 1943, issue which ran a history on the Army Nurse Corps. The article concluded with the information that Capt. Margaret Knierin, with 29 years of service, was Letterman's Chief Nurse. Captain Knierin retired that December.

Shortly after the Pearl Harbor attack, the headquarters of the Ninth Corps Area had moved from the Presidio of San Francisco to Fort Douglas, Utah, where it reorganized as the Ninth Service Command. From the *Fog Horn* one could learn that Letterman General Hospital had come under the administration of the Ninth Service Command rather than the surgeon general. Not until the end of the war did the surgeon general regain control.

The newspaper also informed its readers of medical news, such as the arrival of one of the newly invented electroencephalograph, or brain wave, machines at Letterman Hospital in

Above: Convoy of army ambulances entering Lombard Street gate en route to Letterman General Hospital, 1942. The Presidio was closed to the general public during World War II, thus the masonry sentry post at the entrance. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Below: In the late 1930s, seven army ambulances lined up in front of their garage at Letterman Hospital. From right to left: a white 1929 Henney marked "Medical Department U.S. Army Letterman General Hospital"; a 1933 or 1934 Ford ambulance; a 1933-1935 Dodge; two probably 1934-1935 half-ton Chevrolets. Not enough is visible of the last two for positive identification, but the second from the left could be a 1936 Plymouth sedan, while the one at the far left appears to be about a 1929 model, of unknown manufacture. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

July 1943. The Christmas edition that year said that Letterman was one of two army hospitals that had a vascular surgery section that treated vascular injuries such as frost bite, immersion foot, arteriovenous fisulae, circular deficiencies, and varicose veins. Other news covered the activities of the Grey Ladies volunteers at the hospital. The newspaper also announced that 1,000 WACs would be trained as medical technicians.[40]

Developments at Letterman Hospital in 1943 included an increase in the number of military patients from Australia and New Zealand. The hospital added a maxillo-facial plastic center that year and began plastic surgery in June. A fire station for the hospital became an important new feature. It operated from building 1149 (no longer extant) in the East Hospital area. Four 20,000-gallon emergency water tanks were constructed for the fire station. As the war in the Pacific and Asia continued in 1943, the hospital received 39,349 patients, of whom only 75 died.[41]

The tempo of allied advances in the Central, South, and Southwest Pacific increased greatly in 1944, and so did activities at Letterman. Its primary purpose now was receiving overseas patients arriving at the San Francisco Port of Embarkation and promptly evacuating those patients to other general hospitals in the interior. Also, the hospital provided definitive care for army units in the Bay Area and for retired personnel. By 1944 Letterman Hospital provided definitive care for patients requiring deep x-ray or radium therapy.

A year earlier the San Francisco Port of Embarkation had taken over the civilian Dante Hospital, with 328 beds, at Broadway and Van Ness in San Francisco. Now, in August, the "Dante Station Hospital" merged with Letterman Hospital making a total of 2,338 beds available.

In personnel matters, Pvt. Helen Thompson became the first enlisted WAC assigned to Letterman. A new chief nurse, Maj. Josephine Motl, took office on July 1. A month before, army nurses had finally received temporary commissions in the Army of the United States, but Army brass remained uncommitted to allowing nurses in the Regular Army. An unfortunate incident occurred in midsummer, when an army officer, Lt. Beaufort Swancutt, who had been sentenced to be hanged for murder, committed suicide in the hospital. At the end of the year, plans were ready for the construction of a gymnasium [1152] and a swimming pool [1151] at East Hospital.

An unidentified building, possibly a chapel, Letterman General Hospital, 1936. *U.S. Army Military History Institute.*

The *Fog Horn* carried an extensive article on July 1 reporting that Fred M. Diernisse served as Letterman's head gardener. The old greenhouse had been moved to a site northwest of the main hospital. The former tall privet hedge around the oval in front of the hospital had been replaced with a low boxwood hedge and flowers. The hospital nursery grew snapdragons, rhododendrons, azaleas, begonias, pansies, gladiolas, and dahlias. Most of the cut flowers went to the wards. Arrangements were available for executive offices, the officers' club, the nurses' mess, the chapel, and the Red Cross. Patients at the Crissy Annex did their own gardening. Many of the hospital's civilian gardeners were high school boys employed in summer work.

At the end of 1944, Letterman General Hospital reported that it had admitted 45,168 patients over the past 12 months. The original hospital, East Hospital, and the Dante Annex had a total of 50 wards. The Letterman Fire Department closed down after a brief existence, probably because the Presidio of San Francisco had agreed to take over Letterman's repair and utility operations.[42]

As early as 1943, Letterman's administration became concerned about procedures for evacuating war patients to inland hospitals. The hospital had admitted more than 25,000 patients that year and had evacuated nearly 27,000. One innovation involved aerial transport. Letterman and the Air Transport Command cooperated in the endeavor in May. Ambulances and buses moved 375 patients to nearby Mills Field, the present site of San Francisco International Airport, where a fleet of twelve C-47 aircraft evacuated them to inland destinations.

The principal means of evacuation, however, remained the hospital trains from the Crissy yard in the vicinity of Area A, lower Presidio. The *Fog Horn* described a hospital train in April 1944. The Army had decided on a 10- to 12-car train in accordance with the Medical Department's requirements. Manufactured by the Pullman-Standard Car Manufacturing Company in Massachusetts, a typical train consisted of the ward cars, a utility car, an officers car, an orderlies car, and a kitchen-dining-pharmacy car, each 44 feet long and mounted on two four-wheel trucks. A ward car had eight two-tier bunks. The officer car had facilities for four officers at one end and six nurses at the other.

A report at the end of 1944 stated that Hospital Train Unit (Service Command Unit 1960) operated as many as four full trains a day out of the Crissy spur. In September, Letterman Hospital had evacuated 6,000 patients by train and expected the number to climb to 8,000 in October. The surgeon general had stationed 40 hospital train cars at San Francisco and planned to increase the total to 111.

By early 1945 the Army had added new hospital unit cars. Each contained a kitchen, a small surgery, bunks for 32 patients, and sleeping accommodations for Medical Department technicians. Usually a captain of the Medical Corps commanded a train, assisted by five or six army nurses and from 50 to 60 medical detachment enlisted men. When first activated in July 1944, Service Command Unit 1960 had 30 officers, 59 nurses, and 435 enlisted men. By June 1945, the numbers had increased to 122 officers, 90 nurses, and 1,700 men.[43]

The war in the Pacific came to a bitter close on August 14, 1945. The previous seven months had witnessed an explosion of activity at Letterman General Hospital, and the future promised even more. In February 1945, the *Fog Horn* reported that the hospital would expand to 3,500 beds and that up to two companies of WACs and a WAC band would join the command. Since the 1920s a chapel on the second floor of one of the administrative buildings had

Loading military patients aboard a hospital train in lower Presidio, Letterman General Hospital, 1945. *Letterman Army Medical Center Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area.*

served the hospital, but wheelchair patients had no access to it. In August the hospital unveiled plans for a new chapel, along with other construction.

Areas A and B, by now referred to as the Crissy Annex, underwent conversion beginning in the spring to facilities for hospital patients. (The train unit personnel were moved to Area B.) Ready in September, Crissy Annex was a self-contained unit with a theater, post exchange, chapel, library, arts and skills center, and accommodations for 900 to 1,000 patients. Letterman now looked forward to caring for former American prisoners of war at the annex. The first arrived at San Francisco on September 2, 1945. By the end of the year, the hospital had processed 3,780 of these people.

Letterman's annual report for 1945 announced a stunning record of accomplishments. The Crissy Annex hospital had become a fully operating facility. Letterman's main function now was that of a debarkation hospital for the Pacific theater. For patients too ill to travel farther, Letterman offered general hospital care, in addition to definitive care for patients from the local area. Of the 3,500 beds, 1,825 were reserved strictly for severe cases, 775 for ambulatory

convalescents, and 900 in the Crissy Annex for debarkees. During that year no fewer than 76,313 patients entered Letterman General Hospital and the annexes. Of these, 92 died. At the end of the year, less than 2,000 remained.

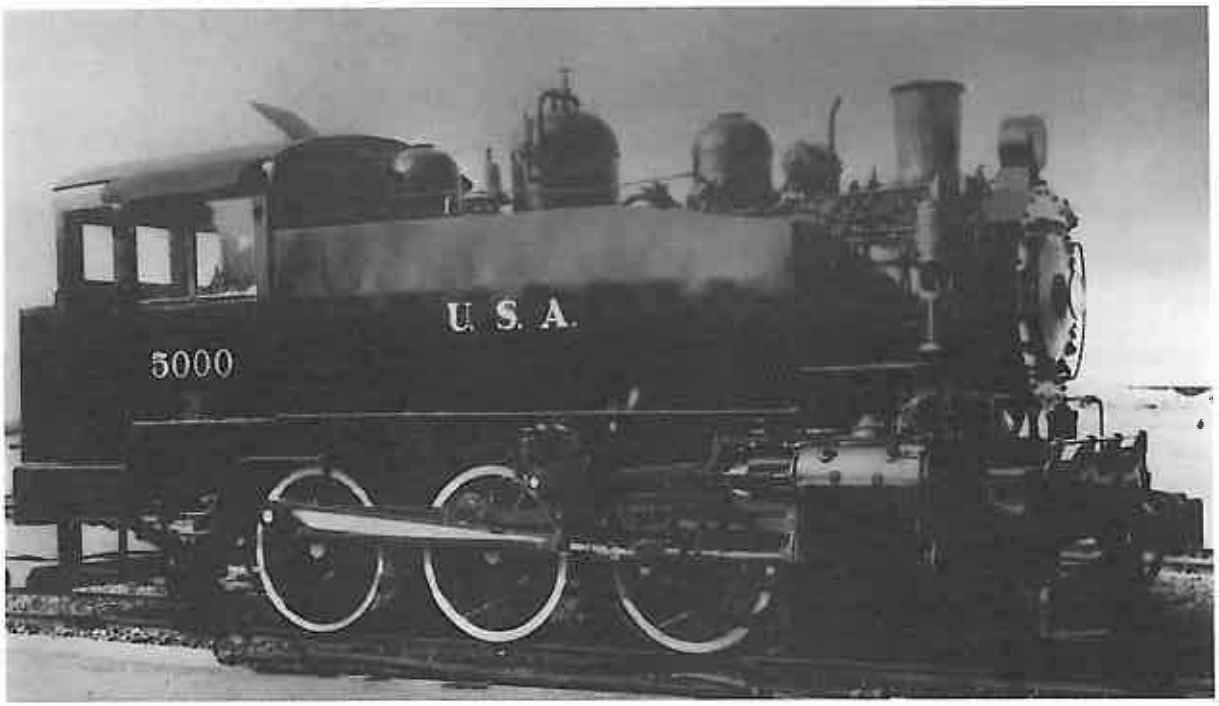
In March 1945 so many patients awaited evacuation by rail that Letterman had to set up additional wards at the Presidio of San Francisco and at Fort Cronkhite in Marin County. In May, 38 trains evacuated 9,000 patients. The largest daily count occurred October 20, when 1,862 patients were admitted. That month the hospital held 10,000 patients, half of them freed prisoners of war. During the year 209 ships had arrived bearing 56,433 sick and wounded, with another 7,659 arriving by air. All told, 304 trains had departed, bearing 60,425 patients.

One account summarized the war years' admissions:

Year	Number of Admissions
1940	9,064
1941	10,043
1942	19,696
1943	37,971
1944	32,015
1945	73,452
1946	20,252

In November 1945 the neurology and neurosurgery sections were created. In December the hospital was designated a center for general surgery, neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, general medicine, closed-ward neuropsychiatry, open-ward neuropsychiatry, neurology, x-ray therapy, and radium therapy, in addition to remaining a processing center for debarking patients. The year concluded with a visit from the war hero and former prisoner of war Lt. Gen. Jonathan Wainwright.[44]

A discussion of wartime activities at Letterman Hospital would be incomplete without mention of its prisoner-of-war camp. In 1941, a small annex of mobilization-type buildings had been added to the east side of Area A. It consisted of five barracks, two combination administration and storehouse buildings (orderly and supply rooms), a mess hall for 250, and a recreation building. In 1944, Letterman converted four of these buildings into a stockade to house Italian prisoners of war who remained "uncooperative" when, after the fall of Italy in 1943, most Italian prisoners of war became "co-belligerents" and cooperated with the Allied forces.



Above: U.S. Army Locomotive 5000 at the Presidio of San Francisco, August 1946. It was used for switching and shifting railroad cars. Locomotive was built for the Army by the H.K. Porter Company of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, being outshopped in August 1942. Its builder's number was 7460. *Photograph by Ted Wurm.*

Below: Industrial area, Letterman General Hospital. The two-story building was a medical and surgical storehouse, 1060. View to the west. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, 1990.*

On January 4, 1945, 178 Italian prisoners of war arrived at Letterman to spend the next 12 months in the stockade at Area A. The four buildings — two two-story barracks, T272 and T276 (both no longer extant); the prisoner-of-war headquarters, supply room, and day room [T274 — to be demolished]; and the kitchen and mess hall [T275 — to be demolished] — were surrounded by a barbed-wire fence enclosing a compound 125 feet wide and 250 feet long. The American guard was composed of 3 officers and 22 enlisted men. The Italians had their own organization, consisting of administrative overhead and laborers. Their function was simply to furnish labor to Letterman General Hospital.

When the Italians left for home on December 15, 1945, a detachment of 150 German prisoners of war replaced them (Germany had surrendered on May 7). Little is known about their activities. They left Letterman on June 21, 1946, bound for the New York Port of Embarkation. The Army promptly inactivated the camp.[45]

War and Peace, 1946–1968

With the return to peace, Letterman's patient load declined rapidly, but it did not reach pre-war levels. In 1946 the hospital admitted 22,150 patients (of which 22 percent were battle casualties), and the number of authorized beds dropped from 3,500 to 2,525. The Army inactivated the hospital's 402d WAC band. By the end of 1946, all the Hospital Train personnel moved back to Area A, and the hospital turned Area B, back to the Presidio. Area A, still called the Crissy Annex hospital, also housed convalescents, the Separation Detachment, and any overflow from the main and East hospitals. The Catholic Church regained control of the Dante Annex in June 1946, although army nurses retained their quarters there for the time being.

Letterman reorganized its activities into "centers" — amputation, hand plastic, orthopedic, neurosurgical, and tumor. In June the hospital was transferred from under the Ninth Service Command back to the control of the Army's surgeon general. Another general, Dwight D. Eisenhower, who had led the Allied armies in Europe, visited the hospital that year, meeting some of the wounded veterans. With the coming of peace, discussion concerning constructing a new hospital was resumed; Letterman was now described as "antiquated."[46]

Army nurses finally received permanent commissions in the Regular Army in 1947, and the chief of the Army Nurse Corps was promoted to the temporary rank of colonel. Adequate

quarters for nurses at Letterman, however, remained a problem. The hospital had authorization for 266 nurses, of whom 242 were present for duty. However, Thompson Hall and other spaces had only 201 single rooms for women officers including 45 rooms 4 miles away that the Army leased in the city.

The annual report for 1947 sheds light on the hospital's Special Services Branch, which provided recreation, entertainment, and information for all personnel. It operated the East Hospital Service Club, the library, tackle shop and fishing pier (the old Presidio wharf), and the former army minelayer L-101, now used by fishing parties. It also ran the radio station KLAH. Special Services cooperated with Physical Reconditioning in operating the gymnasium, swimming pool, and bowling alleys. Crissy Annex also had a service club as well as a theater and chapel. The number of patients at Letterman in 1947 declined further, to 14,300.[47] Letterman celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1948. The number of authorized beds dropped slightly that year to 2,185. Patients filled most of them, the number admitted coming to 15,053; 235 died. The annual report gave an interesting breakdown on the patients:

January 1, 1948		**December 31, 1948**	
Enlisted men and women	63%	Army enlisted men and women	45%
Officers	24%	Air Corps enlisted men	10.5%
Dependents	6%	Army officers	12%
Retired Personnel	3%	Air Corps officers	2.5%
Veterans Administration	2%	Dependents	12%
All Others	2%	VA beneficiaries	12.4%
		Retired personnel	4%
		Others	1.6%

As for quarters, the nine sets of permanent officers' quarters continued to be used. One building had been converted into six apartments for families. Twelve former barracks, now four apartments each, housed 36 families. Sixteen other families occupied quarters at the Presidio. The main hospital now housed 70 bachelor officers (men) and 156 women officers. The hospital's enlisted men and the WACs lived at both the Crissy Annex and the Presidio. The Hospital Train Debarkation Section and the 358th Band (male) also occupied the Crissy Annex.[48] Letterman's authorized bed capacity dropped to 1,525 in 1949.

On August 22, 1949, a newly arrived patient was probably surprised to learn that he was the 300,000th person to be admitted to the hospital. During that year, the Medical Service expanded with the establishment of cardiology and gastroenterology sections. The hospital's library

of 13,000 books had already been divided into two sections, recreational and medical. In 1949 the medical section began placing medical records on microfilm.

Probably as the result of a fall 1948 inspection of Letterman Hospital by the Hoover Committee for the Reorganization of the Executive Branch of the Government, in 1949 planning began in earnest for a new general hospital. (The Committee had recommended closing Letterman; the Army said it was keeping the hospital.) Selecting a site adjacent to the Presidio golf course, the architectural firm of Mastin and Hurd prepared plans for a 1,500-bed hospital "on a 2,000 bed chassis." However, the outbreak of fighting on the Korean peninsula in June 1950 forced the Army to shelve these plans. Once again Letterman Hospital prepared to receive the wounded.[49]

The Korean War, 1950–1953, had a much smaller impact on Letterman than the tumultuous years of World War II. The hospital's capacity remained at 1,500 beds. The first casualty from Korea arrived on July 26, one month after the war had begun. Of the 16,500 admissions that year, 28 percent were battle casualties. Between June and December, 1,580 debarkees arrived at San Francisco, the bulk of whom arrived in the first half of October. The main hospital took care of the more serious cases, while the Crissy Annex served primarily as a convalescent center. (The former prisoner-of-war buildings were renovated at this time.) In July 1950 the Department of the Army issued general orders renaming the hospital Letterman Army Hospital. In 1960, the name reverted to Letterman General Hospital.

Sometime shortly before 1950 the Hospital Train unit at Letterman had been inactivated. During the Korean emergency, an army reserve organization, the 325th Hospital Train, arrived at Letterman. From September 1950 to December 1951, this organization processed patients, mostly walking wounded, from Korea, issuing uniforms, arranging for pay, and sending the soldiers on their way, all in less than 24 hours. The 325th Hospital Train was transferred to Germany at the end of 1951.

Sometime during the Korean War, possibly as early as 1950, the Army named the streets in and around the Crissy Annex hospital in honor of soldiers who in World War II had been posthumously decorated with the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in battle.[50]

Administration building, 1016, built in 1899. View toward the east. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, September, 1990.*

Letterman's bed capacity declined slightly in 1951, to 1,400. Professional services by then included a few new fields such as obstetrics and gynecology, and pediatric service. During the year, 725 battle casualties from Korea entered the hospital, while total admissions came to 13,470. Both East Hospital and Crissy Annex contributed to the success of the hospital's mission.

Other international events involved Letterman to some degree in 1951. On September 8 the *Fog Horn* reported that Lt. Gen. Joseph M. Swing of the Sixth Army, had invited a Letterman patient, Master Sgt. Jack M. Anderson, a veteran of World War II and Korea, to represent his fellow soldiers at the signing of the Tripartite Security Treaty between the United States, New Zealand, and Australia in the Presidio's Service Club for enlisted men [135]. Sergeant Anderson met the U.S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson, the Australian delegate Mr. Spenden, and Sir Carl Berendsen of New Zealand.

Letterman Army Hospital also became responsible for the health of delegates from 51 nations who attended the Japanese Peace Conference at San Francisco's War Memorial Opera House in 1951.[51]

Admissions in 1952 amounted to 14,290, of whom only 250 had been wounded in battle. Gen. Matthew Ridgeway, en route from Japan to Washington, visited the Presidio in May. While it seems unusual for a general to not visit a hospital, it seems that he did not. A notable remodeling effort this year involved removing the steps at the main entrance of the administration building (1899) and replacing them with an ultra-modern facade with automatic doors — at a cost of $30,000.

Fighting ceased in Korea with the signing of an armistice on July 27, 1953. In "Operation Big Switch," 644 former American prisoners of war, many suffering from maltreatment, arrived at Letterman in September and October. Admissions that year declined once again, amounting to 11,555.[52]

Letterman Hospital's future once again became a matter of discussion in 1956. Architect M. T. Pflueger proposed the construction of a new 1,000-bed hospital at Fort Ord near Monterey. The Army rejected that idea on the grounds that an army hospital in the Bay Area had to be close to a medical school. A year later, Letterman announced a reduction in services. Only 900 beds were authorized, with 50 reserved for debarkation needs. A breakdown of the 900 showed 250 beds for general medicine, 350 beds for general surgery, 125 for orthopedic surgery, 100 beds for closed-ward neuropsychiatry, and 75 for open-ward neuropsychiatry. Despite the reductions, Letterman would become a teaching hospital.

In 1959, the Army's surgeon general announced that a new Letterman Hospital was a high priority. The debate continued. In 1960 the Army began serious planning for an 850-bed hospital on the Presidio reservation. That year, the commanding general of the Sixth Army authorized the transfer of 20 acres from the Presidio to Letterman, south of East Hospital, so that construction of a new hospital could begin while the old plant continued to function. At about the same time, the General Accounting Office recommended that no army construction be undertaken for a hospital, preferring a 1,000-bed Navy hospital at Oak Knoll in the Bay Area and a 200-bed addition to the hospital at Travis Air Force Base. The Army argued against those plans on the grounds that Letterman was one of the surgeon general's key specialized centers and it trained a quarter of the Regular Army's medical specialists. Further studies fol-

Letterman General Hospital. A complex of World War I and World War II (2 story) "temporary" buildings is at center right. Above them is the Palace of Fine Arts from the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. May 1, 1957 photograph. *U.S. Army photograph, Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

lowed. The final decision called for a new 550-bed army hospital at Letterman and a 650-bed naval hospital at Oak Knoll.

A joint venture of architects prepared plans and specifications for both projects. In the 1965 military construction program, Congress authorized $14.3 million for Letterman. The Lavelle Construction Company won a $165,000 contract for site preparation, which involved demolition of the World War I–era East Hospital and the construction of a new entrance road to the Presidio at the Lombard Gate. Halvorson McLaughlin of Spokane, Washington, won the bid for construction of the hospital in October 1965.[53]

Meanwhile, mundane affairs continued to occupy Letterman's administration. In 1956, the Presidio agreed to let the hospital use the brick cavalry stable [668] as an animal laboratory

for dogs, guinea pigs, rats, mice, etc. A 1957 report discussed Letterman's landscaping. Rows of acacias graced the streets east of the main rectangle. Many palms, eucalyptus, and acacias, as well as shrubs, specimen plantings, hedges, flower borders, and vines added to the scene. Nineteen acres of lawn and a greenhouse (former building 1053 — no longer extant) completed the picture. There were two memorial trees, one to Dr. John D. Foley, 1887–1943, and the other in memory of Brig. Gen. Wallace DeWitt, who commanded Letterman from 1927 to 1931 and again from 1940 to 1942.

In 1965, when the Presidio decided to close its own greenhouse, Letterman Hospital was asked if it could supply plants for the Presidio's offices, senior officers' quarters, and for official functions. Letterman replied that its greenhouse provided plants and flowers to the wards, messes, and chapel. While it was agreeable to helping the Presidio, safeguards had to be developed to prevent wives of senior officers at the Presidio descending on the greenhouse every time they entertained.

In 1957, Sp3 John Letterman, the nephew of Maj. Jonathan Letterman four generations removed, arrived at the Presidio. A small earthquake that year caused minor damage to the hospital, such as cracked plaster and windows and loosened tiles. In addition to memorial trees, four of Letterman's streets received names in the 1960s honoring past commanders:

> Kendall Road (for Maj. William P. Kendall, 1901–1904)
> Glennan Road (for Lt. Col. James D. Glennan, 1910–1913)
> Truby Road (for Brig. Gen. Albert E. Truby, 1922–1924 and 1926–1927)
> DeWitt Road (for Brig. Gen. Wallace DeWitt, 1927–1931 and 1940–1942)

Both Glennan and Truby had gone on to become surgeon generals of the Army.[54]

American involvement in South Vietnam lasted from 1959 to 1975. Letterman Hospital was even less involved than it had been in the Korean War. The most complete annual report is for the year 1970. At that time, Letterman's staff stood at 1,090 officers and enlisted personnel and 735 civilian employees. The new hospital cared for an average of 929 in-house patients per month. The number of outpatients reached more than half a million. That year the hospital received one of the few 2-million-volt x-ray cancer treatment machines in the United States.

An odd statistic gave the average ages of the 26,650,000 veterans of the last four wars as of 1970:

Letterman Army Medical Center building 1100 and flagstaff, 1101. Note the new Presidio fire department engine parked in front of the hospital during a fire safety inspection. View toward the north. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, 1990.*

89.9 years for World War I veterans
49.3 years for World War II veterans
39.5 years for Korean War veterans
26.1 years for Vietnam veterans

In 1965, the introduction of an H-34 helicopter that the Sixth Army loaned for transferring patients from Travis Air Force Base to Letterman Hospital created a new transportation wrinkle. During August and September the helicopter transported 199 casualties from Vietnam to the hospital. Letterman now required a helicopter landing pad nearby. Governor and Mrs. Ronald Reagan visited patients in the hospital in February 1968, for reasons probably related to the Vietnam War.[55]

A New Hospital

The joint venture architect-engineering firm of Stone, Marraccini and Patterson and Milton T. Pflueger prepared the plans and specifications for the new Letterman Hospital. Halverson and McLaughlin, under the supervision of the U.S. Army District Engineer in Sacramento, completed the construction in the fall of 1968 at a cost of $15.5 million. The 550-bed, fire resistant building contained 10 stories and had 445,000 square feet of floor space. A wide three-story base housed the clinical facilities. It was surmounted by a seven-story tower with two nursing units on each level. Poured-in-place concrete piles supported the structure. Reinforced concrete formed the frame. The exterior walls consisted of precast concrete panels.

Named the Letterman Army Medical Center in 1973, the hospital's facilities included 178 physicians' offices, 100 examination rooms, and a surgical suite consisting of five general operating rooms, an orthopedic operating room, and a neurosurgical operating room. Nine elevators serviced the building. The 550 beds were distributed as follows: 130 in medicine, 202 in surgery, 30 in intensive care, 148 in orthopedic surgery, 20 in thoracic surgery, and 20 in psychiatry and neurology. Jonathan Letterman's grand nephew, Gordon S. Letterman, a doctor of medicine at George Washington University, in Washington, D.C., attended the dedication in 1969. The hospital staff totaled 1,800. In 1972 the 200-seat Jack W. Schwarz Theater was added to the new hospital. (Schwarz had commanded the hospital from 1960 to 1965.) Two events in 1973 were of passing interest. In the Christmas season, the legendary comedian Bob Hope entertained the patients. The *San Francisco Examiner* suggested that some of his barracks jokes did not go over with the elderly retirees and dependents. Also that year, Operation Homecoming at Letterman welcomed nine former American prisoners of war from Vietnam.[56]

In 1976 the public affairs officer announced that 83-year-old General of the Army Omar N. Bradley and Mrs. Bradley would be admitted for routine physical examinations. General Bradley hoped to keep his visit to San Francisco low key and asked there be no interviews or filming. The officer added that King Hussein of Jordan had been in the hospital recently.

Demolition of older Letterman Hospital buildings that had begun in 1965 continued, and in 1976 the Army constructed a medical barracks and an administration and supply building [1027 and 1028] for the hospital's enlisted women on the site of the 1899 quadrangle. In 1982

Letterman Army Medical Center's ten-story main building, 1100, constructed in 1968. World War I East Hospital to the east had been mostly demolished. *U. S. Army Military History Institute.*

Letterman's enlisted men received two three-story barracks connected with a one-story administration and supply building [1029 and 1030] in the same area.

The medical center admitted 11,100 patients in 1988 and at the same time the outpatient clinic treated about 1,600 patients a day. The clientele had changed since World War II when most patients were young men. By the late 1980s, active-duty personnel made up only 11.9 percent of the patient load, while military retirees and their dependents accounted for 77.1 percent.

Inactivation

In May 1991, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers published *Base Closure Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Presidio of San Francisco.* At that time, the Army planned to abandon both the Presidio and Letterman Hospital, as directed by Congress. Earlier legislation had allowed for the Presidio reservation to become part of the U.S. National Park System. The environmental impact statement recounted that the medical center's mission was

to provide medical support to military personnel in times of war and to provide peacetime care to active-duty personnel and their dependents. The military health services system also provided medical benefits to military retirees, their dependents, and the survivors of deceased military personnel based on availability of care.

The transition timetable called for ending of graduate medical education on July 1, 1991. Between that day and the end of September, the hospital was to undergo the transition from a medical center to a 100-bed army community hospital, to be called the U.S. Army Medical Department Activity. A year later, on October 1, 1992, this community hospital would begin a general transition to an army health clinic, and on October 1, 1993, the clinic would come under the supervision of the Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Washington. Final closure was scheduled to occur on June 30, 1994. However, there were to be many changes to this timetable.[57]

In 1966 the surgeon general had established the Western Medical Research Laboratory in five small buildings at Letterman Hospital. This facility carried out research in several fields including tropical medicine, nutrition, surgery and blood replacement, pathology, and psychiatry. In 1971, the Army began construction of a large permanent facility for the laboratory. Phase 1 of the work began under the construction company Rothschild and Raffin, Inc., and architects-engineers Frank L. Hope and Associates and Gwathmey, Sellier, and Crosby in joint venture. This first structure, four stories immediately east of the new medical center, cost $7.4 million. The mission of this renamed Western Medical Institute of Research remained much the same as the former laboratory. When fully completed, the institute expected to employ from 500 to 600 scientists and medical technicians.

Protests against the institute gathered steam in San Francisco, culminating in two protest meetings at the Lombard gate. Organized by the Coalition Opposed to Medical and Biological Attack (COMBAT), the protesters claimed that the new institute would do research on chemical and biological weapons to attack certain races of people, and that San Franciscans of Asian descent would be the guinea pigs for these ethnic weapons. Only in San Francisco! Other protesters were animal-rights activists who objected to the use of animals in medical experiments at the institute.

The completed institute, named the Letterman Army Institute of Research, had three buildings — for administrative support, laboratory research, and research support — finished by

1974. The fourth building, for chemical storage, was finished in 1982. From one to four stories high, the four buildings were interconnected and were regarded as one structure [former building 1110]. With a command structure separate from the medical center, the institute carried out primary research in medicine, optics, nutrition, and toxicology. The Presidio of San Francisco supported both the medical center and the institute through an Inter-Service Support Agreement. At the time the base closure was announced, the institute's principal subjects of research included artificial blood, laser physics, and the treatment of trauma. Much of its work was conducted in conjunction with Stanford University and the Davis and San Francisco campuses of the University of California. As with the medical center, the institute's mission was scheduled to come to an end in 1994 under the Base Closure Act.[58]

A ceremony marking the inactivation of the Letterman Army Medical Center and its conversion to the Letterman U.S. Army Hospital was held on June 8, 1991. (The official date for closing the medical center was at the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 1991, and the official startup date for the army hospital was October 1.) Letterman U.S. Army Hospital graduated the last class in its residency program in psychiatry on May 28, 1993, and on June 1 it closed its inpatient service. On the following day a ceremony marked the end of Letterman's service as an army hospital and the opening of the Letterman U.S. Army Health Clinic. (Again, the official dates were September 30 and October 1, 1993.)

On June 30, 1995, the Health Clinic reduced operations and became the U.S. Army Aid Station. A month later, on August 1, the aid station closed its doors. Nearly 100 years had passed since the Letterman General Hospital had first begun to treat patients at the Presidio of San Francisco. Now the grand old hospital passed into history.[59]

Chapter 11 Notes:

1. James A. Wier, "Letterman's Fascinating History;" J. V. D. Middleton, in "Letterman General Information"; Willard H. S. Mattison, a portion of the account, undated but ca. September 1898, in H. H. Rutherford, *History of the U.S. Army General Hospital, Presidio of San Francisco, California* (1905). Some documents give Mattison's name as Matthews. It is "Mattison" in the Post Returns, December 1898, Letterman General Hospital, Roll 973, Microcopy M617, NA.

2. Mattison; Isabella E. Cowan served as the first chief nurse. During the Spanish-American War, more than 1,700 women nurses were employed on contract in both general and field hospitals. Edgar Erskine Hume, *Victories of Army Medicine, Scientific Accomplishments of the Medical Department of the United States Army* (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott, 1943), p. 28.

3. Rutherford, *History*, quoting a letter by Colonel Middleton, dated May 25, "1898," actually 1905.

4. Another Girard, Joseph B., had been the Presidio post surgeon, 1894–1896.

5. Wier, "Letterman"; War Department, GO 182, December 1, 1898; Middleton, "Letterman"; Anon., "Brief History of Letterman," p. 5, quoting Girard; Anon., "The History of Letterman General Hospital Published in 1919;" and Rutherford, *History*, p. 7.

6. Rutherford, *History*, pp. 70–81.

7. Anon., "Brief History of Letterman," p. 5; Commanding officer, PSF, March 22, 1900, to Department of California, Letters Sent, PSF, RG 393, NA; General Orders 13, April 30, 1900, General Orders 1898–1903, PSF, RG 393, NA; Listening Post, *History of Letterman*, p. 5; Secretary of war, *Annual Report 1900*, vol. 1, pt. 3, p. 239; Rutherford, *History*, pp. 86 and 100.

8. Originally designated building 21, the commander's quarters [1000] cost $10,000. In the 1920s the building underwent renovations costing $5,000, and by 1931, $9,000 more had been spent. In 1930 the front porch was enclosed. The exterior was cream-colored until World War I, when it was painted white.

9. Department of California, May 13, 1901, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received April–June 1901, PSF, RG 393, NA; Rutherford, *History*, pp. 126–139.

10. F. J. Hughes, "Letterman Army Hospital" (1953); "History, Letterman Army Hospital," 1951; Rutherford, *History*, pp. 150–175.

11. Rutherford, *History*, pp. 179–194. The Presidio post hospital continued to be staffed and morning sick calls continued to be administered there. Soldiers needing hospitalization were sent to the general hospital.

12. *Ibid*, p. 207.

13. *Ibid*, p. 211.

14. *Ibid*, pp. 214–238.

15. G. H. Torney, *Rules and Regulations for U.S. Army General Hospital Presidio of San Francisco, Cal.* (n.d., but ca. 1905); Rutherford, *History*, pp. 55–56.

16. Gordon Thomas and Max Morgan Witts, *The San Francisco Earthquake* (New York: Stein and Day, 1971), pp. 159–161; W. Stephenson, April 20, 1906, to surgeon general, Letters and Endorsements, Medical Department 1904–1906, PSF, RG 393, NA.

17. Torney served at San Francisco until 1908. He was reappointed surgeon general in 1913 but died unexpectedly of broncho-pneumonia. When the new Letterman General Hospital was dedicated in 1969, the Army named the general assembly room in his honor. Ashburn, Medical Department, pp. 234 and 293; Lawrence Kinnard, "History of the Golden Gate and its Headlands," typescript 1962 and 1967, pp. 320–322; Booklet, "Dedication Ceremony, 14 February 1969, Letterman General Hospital, San Francisco," p. 3.

18. *Fog Horn*, April 14, 1956.

19. Anon., "Brief History of Letterman," p. 8; W. H. Harts, "Report Upon the Expansion and Development of the Presidio of San Francisco," General Correspondence 1890–1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA, p. 16.

20. Earle K. Stewart and Kenneth S. Erwin, An untitled history of the Presidio *of San Francisco* (1959), p. 85; *Webster's American Military Biographies*; P. M. Ashburn, *A History of the Medical Department of the United States Army* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1929), pp. 78–80; Sanford E. Leeds, "Jonathan Letterman: Soldier, Doctor, and Coroner of the City of San Francisco," *Salvo, California and the American Civil War* (Spring 1990), pp. 28–31; Hunt, *The Army of the Pacific*, pp. 268–269; U.S. War Department, General Orders 152, November 23, 1911. Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, formerly an assistant surgeon at the Presidio of San Francisco, signed these orders.

21. H. B. McIntyre, August 25, 1910, to quartermaster general; Col. F. Von Schrader, March 1, 1911, Inspection of U.S. Army General Hospital, both in General Correspondence 1890–1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

22. Von Schrader, Inspection, 1911; Ashburn, *History*, p. 233.

23. Report of the surgeon general, 1916, to the secretary of war, Letterman General Hospital, RG 112, NA—Pacific Sierra Region.

24. Anon., "A Brief History of Letterman," p. 8; Letterman General Hospital, Annual Report, 1919, General Historical Data, Letterman, RG 112, NA — Pacific Sierra Region.

25. At the beginning of World War I the Army Nurse Corps had 403 nurses. Eighteen months later the figure stood at 21,000.

26. F. J. Hughes, "Letterman Army Hospital," August 1, 1953, in PAM; "The History of Letterman General Hospital Published in 1919." Five other general hospitals received more amputation cases than Letterman: Walter Reed (1,189); General Hospital 3, Colonia, New Jersey (168); General Hospital 6, Fort McPherson, Atlanta, Georgia (91); General Hospital 26, Fort Des Moines, Iowa (161); and General Hospital 29, Fort Snelling, Minnesota (102). Despite the relatively small number of amputees treated, Letterman made significant advances in the development of orthopedic devices at this time. "It was so effective in the rehabilitation of amputees that the "Letterman leg," developed at the hospital, was used for more than 20 years." Weed, *Medical Department*, vol. 5, *Military Hospitals in the United States*, pp. 176–177; Stephen A. Haller, *Letterman Hospital, "Work for the Sake of Mankind," A Summary of Its Significance and Integrity* (April 1994), pp. 3 and 7.

27. Frank W. Weed, *The Medical Department of the United States Army in the World War*, Military Hospitals in the United States (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1923), 5:490–491; Civilian employees in the hospital in 1919 numbered 187. *Letterman, General Historical Data*, RG 112, NA — Pacific Sierra Region.

28. *Listening Post*, in *History of Letterman*, p. 8; *San Francisco Examiner*, October 10, 1919. *Listening Post* was an in-house newsletter during World War I.

29. *The Medical Department of the United States Army in the World War*, vol. 10, *Neuropsychiatry* (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1927), pp. 128–130.

30. Weed, *Medical Department*, 5:176–177 and 190. General Hospital 21 became Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center.

31. Weed, *The Medical Department*, 5:491; Anon., *A Brief History of Letterman*, p. 9; "History, Letterman General Hospital, June 27, 1951," General Historical Data, Letterman, RG 112, NA – Pacific Sierra Region.

32. Anon., "Brief History of Letterman," pp. 9–10; "History, Letterman Army Hospital, 1951," and Letterman, Annual Report 1923, both in General Historical Data, RG 112, NA – Pacific Sierra Region; *The Officer's Guide* (Harrisburg: Military Service, 1951), p. 31; Joseph D. Harrington, *Yankee Samurai (The Secret Role of Nisei in America's Pacific Victory)* (Detroit: Pettigrew, 1979), p. 60. Japan had been the most generous of foreign nations after San Francisco's 1906 earthquake.

33. Ashburn, *History of the Medical Department*, p. 216; DeWitt, February 25, 1929, to the surgeon general, Master Planning Files 1935, Letterman, RG 112, NA—Pacific Sierra Region. The location of the Noncommissioned Officers Quarters is not known, but they may have been in wards that are known to have been converted. DeWitt served as Letterman's commanding officer twice, 1927–1931 and 1940–1942. It should be noted that construction of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in the Lower Presidio in 1914 had eliminated the cavalry stables and all marshes and lagoons that remained.

34. Office of the Construction Quartermaster, Fort Mason, October 7, 1931, Letterman files, RG 112, NA–Pacific Sierra Region. The third 1931 ward cannot now be identified. The concrete building [1013], containing a 22-bed ward and a receiving office, was constructed in 1933.

35. *San Francisco Chronicle*, April 24 and June 25, 1938; Col. J. M. Graham, Annual Inspection of Construction, San Francisco and Vicinity, May 14, 1938, GCGF 1935–1945, OQMG, RG 92, NA. Unfortunately for this history, Graham did not provide a breakdown of the funds. He probably had other matters on his mind.

36. J. H. Veal, Completion Report on Temporary Housing, October 28, 1941, RG 77, NA.

37. Anon., "A Brief History of Letterman General Hospital," pp. 10–11; F. J. Hughes, "Letterman Army Hospital," 1953.

38. *Annual Report of Letterman General Hospital, 1941*, pp. 2–9.

39. *Annual Report of Letterman General Hospital, 1942.*

40. *Fog Horn*, August 21–December 25, 1943. The first WAC, Lt. Elizabeth A. Rose, arrived at Letterman in February 1944.

41. Anon., "A Brief History of Letterman General Hospital," p. 12; J. H. Mackin, October 9, 1965, to Col. Boeckman, Letterman, RG 112, NA—Pacific Sierra Region; *Annual Report of Letterman General Hospital, 1943*. The fire station is no longer extant. Structure 1149 today is the Gorgas Avenue entrance to the Presidio.

42. Anon., "Brief History of Letterman," p. 13; *Army and Navy Journal*, July 8, 1944; A. H. Schwichtenberg, November 1, 1948, to commanding officer, Letterman, RG 112, NA—Pacific Sierra Region; *Annual Report of Letterman General Hospital, 1943* and *1944*.

43. Anon., "A Brief History of Letterman General Hospital," p. 11; "History, Letterman Army Hospital, June 27, 1951," RG 112, NA; *Fog Horn*, April 8 and May 27, 1944, and February 17 and June 16, 1945; Col. H. H. Galliott, December 22, 1944, to District Engineer, San Francisco, Letterman, RG 112, NA—Pacific Sierra Region.

44. *Fog Horn*, February 3, April 7 and 14, July 28, August 4 and 11, September 8, and December 1, 1945; *Annual Report of Letterman General Hospital, 1945*; Anon., "Brief History of Letterman General Hospital," pp. 14–15; Stewart and Erwin [a history of the Presidio], p. 73. Wainwright had been assigned to the PSF in 1912 but had never joined. He went to Yellowstone National Park instead.

45. *Annual Report of Letterman General Hospital, 1945* and *1946*; Arnold P. Krammer, "German Prisoners of War in the United States," *Military Affairs*, 40: 68–72.

46. Anon., "Brief History of Letterman," p. 15; *Fog Horn*, June 8, 1946; *The Star Presidian*, July 5, 1963; *Annual Report of Letterman General Hospital, 1946.*

47. Anon., "Brief History of Letterman," p. 15; Extract from the *Annual Report of Letterman General Hospital, 1947*; *The Officer's Guide*, p. 32; Maj. E. A. Paxon, Letterman, February 16, 1947, to surgeon general, RG 112, NA—Pacific Sierra Region.

Buildings in the Crissy Annex Hospital, January 1, 1947:

T-232, commanding officer, adjutant, message center
T-233, unit surgeon, chief nurse, dispensary, dental clinic
T-234, evacuation office, transportation office, American Red Cross
T-253, 256, and 257, patients' recreation
T-259, theater and chapel
T-240, patients' clothing room

Wards:

235, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 255, 258, and 259.

The former prisoner of war compound had not yet been added to Crissy Annex hospital. OCE, Washington, Entry 393, Box 197, RG 77, NA.

48. *Annual Report of Letterman General Hospital, 1948.*

49. F. J. Hughes, "Letterman Army Hospital," 1953; James H. Mackin, "How Did the New Letterman Come About?", ca. 1965; Anon., "Brief History of Letterman," p. 15; *Annual Report of Letterman General Hospital, 1949.*

50. *Annual Report of Letterman General Hospital, 1950*; Anon., "Brief History of Letterman Hospital," p. 16; "History, Letterman Army Hospital," 1951; Albert E. Davis, "Historical Monuments, Plaques, Street Signs, and Cannon on the Presidio of San Francisco," 1959; "Letterman Army Hospital," ca. 1966; Department of the Army, General Orders 21, July 6, 1950; S. L. Defebaugh, April 28, 1994, to Larry Gill, NPS.

51. *Fog Horn*, September 1, 8, and 15, 1951; *Annual Report of Letterman Army Hospital, 1951*. Secretary Acheson paid a short visit to Letterman on September 8.

52. *Annual Report of Letterman Army Hospital, 1952*; Fog Horn, June 28, 1952; Anon., "Brief History of Letterman Hospital," p. 16.

53. J. H. Mackin, "How Did the New Letterman Come About?"; "Buildings to be Demolished for New Letterman General Hospital," February 18, 1965.

54. L. L. *illegible*, September 11, 1956, to deputy commanding officer, PSF; "Analysis of Existing Facilities," Letterman, August 19, 1957; Col. C. C. Britell, March 26, 1957, to Lt. Col. Mudgett, Letterman, all in RG 112, NA–Pacific Sierra Region; Col. J. H. Mackin, April 23, 1965, Memo for the Record; *Star Presidian*, September 13, 1957; *Fog Horn*, December 1, 1948.

55. "1970 Historical Information Report, Letterman General Hospital;" Brig. Gen. C. H. Gingles, January 26, 1966, to Lt. Gen. J. L. Richardson, Sixth Army; and Gingles. February 26, 1968, to Reagan, Letterman, RG 112, NA—Pacific Sierra Region.

56. Two of the nine later faced charges of collaborating with North Vietnamese. Maj. J. D. O'Brien, April 16, 1973, to commanding officer, U.S. Army Audio-Visual Agency, Letterman, RG 113, NA—Pacific Sierra Region.

57. "Dedication Ceremony, February 14, 1969, Letterman General Hospital"; "Annual Historical Information Report," Letterman 1978–1979; Folder, "Letterman General Hospital, Info Summary New LGH"; Voucher Files, 1972, Master Plans Office, DEH, PSF; *San Francisco Examiner*, December 22, 1973; G. K. Provoo, Public Affairs Officer, Letterman, July 29, 1976.

58. "Western Medical Institute of Research (WMIR) Fact sheet," August 6, 1971; Anon., "History of Major Tenants — Presidio of San Francisco;" *Fog Horn*, September 16, 1971; U.S. Army, *Final EIS*.

59. Gordon Chappell, NPS, telecom with Maj. David Hernandez, March 2 and 7, 1995, and with Col. Michael Brenna, March 7, 1995; Letterman U.S. Army Health Clinic Recognition Day Ceremony, June 14, 1994; List of closures or continuations, PSF, 1995.

Chapter 12. San Francisco National Cemetery

The San Francisco National Cemetery at the Presidio of San Francisco contains the graves of Spanish and Mexican soldiers and civilians, the American Presidio's dead, remains from other western posts and from the battlefields of the Indian Wars, veterans, and the honored dead of the Armed Forces of the United States. Known and unknown from two centuries of history rest there.

The first deaths of army personnel recorded in the Presidio of San Francisco's monthly post returns occurred in 1849. That year three soldiers died, all in the 3d Artillery Regiment — two of natural causes and one an accidental death.[1]

It is not known for certain where the bodies were buried. When the U.S. Army occupied the Presidio in 1847, a small Spanish-Mexican burial ground lay a short distance to the northwest of the original Presidio compound. Before long a row of laundresses' quarters stood in that same area. The cemetery then lay in the row between the two northerly sets of quarters.

A 1940 history of the Presidio referred to this cemetery as one for Indian, Spanish, and Mexican soldiers, from 1776 to 1846. Whether American burials took place in this cemetery remains unknown. It is probable they did not. The remains were later removed to the national cemetery, and placed in the tomb marked "The Unknown Soldier." In 1955 the quartermaster officer responsible for the national cemetery, possibly referring to an earlier document, wrote that 230 bodies, believed to have been Spanish and Mexican, had been relocated from other burial spots on the reservation to the national cemetery.[2]

On an unknown date the Army established a post cemetery to the west of the main post at a location now known as the San Francisco National Cemetery. The earliest known reference to the two cemeteries yet found was written in 1866, just after the Civil War. An exasperated lieutenant wrote that no records of interments existed and only a few headboards marked the graves: "There are two cemeteries at the post, one of which only is now used. It is in good condition. The other cemetery is situated almost between the Laundresses quarters and also is in good condition. I would deem it inadvisable to remove the bodies from it to the new Cemetery, from the amount of labor it would involve."[3]

A Presidio map prepared by engineers in 1872 showed a third cemetery south of the post cemetery, although no such cemetery existed at that time. A possible explanation for this is that large portions of the reservation were being considered to be turned over to civil authority. The Army drew potential boundaries on this map to retain as much land as possible, including this nonexistent cemetery, as well as land defenses stretching from Fort Point to Presidio Hill, neither of which have ever existed.

Until 1867 the Army marked graves throughout the country with wooden headboards. Although it authorized small headstones to replace the boards that year, it was 1873 before marble or durable stones were selected. In 1879 the post commander directed the post quartermaster to repair the fence and the gate at the cemetery, cut the grass, police the grounds, but to defer tree planting until the rainy season.[4]

Four burials took place in 1873 in the post cemetery: two caused by natural deaths, one death caused by a blow to the temple, and the late Lt. Arthur Cranston, a Presidio soldier killed in the Modoc War. Two burials the following year, 1874, involved a drowning and a suicide.[5]

The first listing of all interments in the post cemetery appeared in 1879. Listing 141 names, it covered the period from December 26, 1854, to May 21, 1879. Most of the burials were those of army personnel, but women, children, and civilian men were included. All ranks were listed at random, suggesting no separate plots for officers. One private appeared to be buried in two different graves. Each grave received a number, such as A29 or C136.

An exasperated post quartermaster wrote in 1883 that confusion surrounded the numbering of graves at the cemetery. In the past, graves had simply been numbered consecutively regardless of what section they were in. Corrections would be difficult because 64 headstones with numbers already carved on them were en route to the Presidio. He also noted that many graves remained without any markers at all.

The War Department had directed the establishment of national cemeteries during the Civil War. About 1883 Lt. Col. George P. Andrews, commanding the Presidio, forwarded a request that the post cemetery be made a national one. Although the secretary of war disapproved that request, War Department General Orders 133 in 1884 announced that "a part of the reservation at the Presidio, including the post cemetery thereon, was announced as a national cemetery of the fourth class, to be known as the San Francisco National Cemetery, area about

Presidio of San Francisco, 1872, showing the post cemetery marked with a cross. A proposed new cemetery to the south is named but without a cross. For the location of the old Spanish-Mexican cemetery on laundresses' row, reference is made to the map, "Presidio of San Francisco, 1870," in chapter 5 of this study. The Army prepared this 1872 map when it appeared that portions of the reservation would be transferred to civilian authority. *National Archives photograph.*

9.5 acres."[6] The post cemetery was included in the new national cemetery but the post commander now lost control of the plot. The depot quartermaster, who had his office in San Francisco and as the representative of the quartermaster general, took charge.

Despite the difficulties experienced with the graves' numbering system in 1883, a new numbering system and a new listing of interments took effect early in 1885, most likely because of the national cemetery designation. An example of the changes may be seen in the grave of Bandmaster F. P. Sauen, 3d Artillery. In 1879 his grave was numbered A-27; in 1885 it became A-69. The national cemetery now contained 181 interments.

Although Decoration (Memorial) Day on May 30 had been observed in the nation since 1868, the first notice of it at the Presidio occurred in the 1880s. The garrison (1st Artillery and 1st Infantry) marched to the cemetery where the soldiers decorated the graves with flowers, with "particular attention seemingly being paid to the resting place of Major General McDowell." Following the decorating exercises, during which a battery fired minute-guns, the troops reformed, the band played a dirge, and the garrison returned to the post.[7]

Between 1888 and 1891 the War Department allotted funds for the improvement of the cemetery — constructing walls, grading, and tree planting. While the number of deaths among the garrison remained small through the 1880s and most of the 1890s, the increasing number of burials of Civil War veterans led the War Department to issue General Orders 7 in 1896 that enlarged the cemetery by 6 acres. This New Addition brought the total to 15.5 acres.[8]

In 1897 Capt. Charles B. Thompson, the post quartermaster, raised the question concerning use of the cemetery for the burial of families of retired, honorably discharged regulars or volunteers of United States forces. The chief of the San Francisco Quartermaster Depot, who was responsible for the cemetery, replied that a liberal construction of army regulations permitted burial of the immediate family (wife and children) of a retired soldier. It may have been this interpretation that resulted in 49 burials that year, whereas the post returns recorded only six deaths in the garrison.[9]

The cemetery had been enlarged just in time. The Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection resulted in a huge increase of burials in the national cemetery during the next several years: 48 interments in 1898; 161 in 1899; 610 in 1900; 855 in 1901; and 700 in 1902. At Manila, the Army established the U.S. Army Morgue and Office of Identification. Remains

were shipped to San Francisco, some for further transportation to home communities, others for burial in the national cemetery. The Department of California ordered the Presidio's flag to be displayed at half-mast on the days ships bearing bodies arrived in the harbor.[10]

The question of where to store the bodies from their arrival at the Presidio to their burial arose in 1899. The first recommendation was to use the dining rooms of the Model Camp, the volunteers having been demobilized. The post commander, Col. Henry B. Freeman, 24th Infantry, believed this to be a poor solution, especially if the press got wind of it. He suggested instead the large temporary structure near the Lombard Gate that the YMCA had erected in 1898 as a recreation center for the volunteers. Department headquarters readily agreed. A procedure was quickly developed for the arrival of bodies. In May 1899 the remains of 28 deceased soldiers landed at the Presidio dock. Troop G, 6th Cavalry, furnished an escort of one corporal and eight privates to conduct the remains to the YMCA building. In addition, sentinels were posted around the building.

A problem arose in August when 17 bodies were "dropped" at the wharf without the Presidio being notified. The wharfinger called post headquarters and a detail of soldiers was hurriedly assembled to handle the coffins. Col. Jacob B. Rawles scolded the depot quartermaster and asked that in the future advance notice be given so that the Presidio could have wagons at the wharf and a civilian crew to do the work. Soldiers should not be so employed.

Soldiers were involved when the remains of Brig. Gen. Emerson H. Liscum arrived at San Francisco's Folsom Street wharf in December 1900. General Liscum had been killed at the battle of Tientsin, during the Boxer Rebellion in China in July 1900. Two troops of the 6th Cavalry escorted the remains to the post chapel. On another occasion Colonel Rawles had to write to a private in China that his wife had died in the post hospital.[11]

By January 1901, 500 coffins were stored at the Presidio awaiting burial. Colonel Rawles, alarmed at the demands being made on the garrison and believing that soldiers should not be involved in the gruesome task of lifting and moving the coffins about, requested that 40 civilians of the Quartermaster Department be assigned to the Presidio. He said that the Presidio's band and a soldier escort would still attend the burials. Higher headquarters approved the employment of 18 laborers and the post quartermaster suggested that funerals be restricted to two days per week. By March 1901 a morgue had been erected at the Presidio

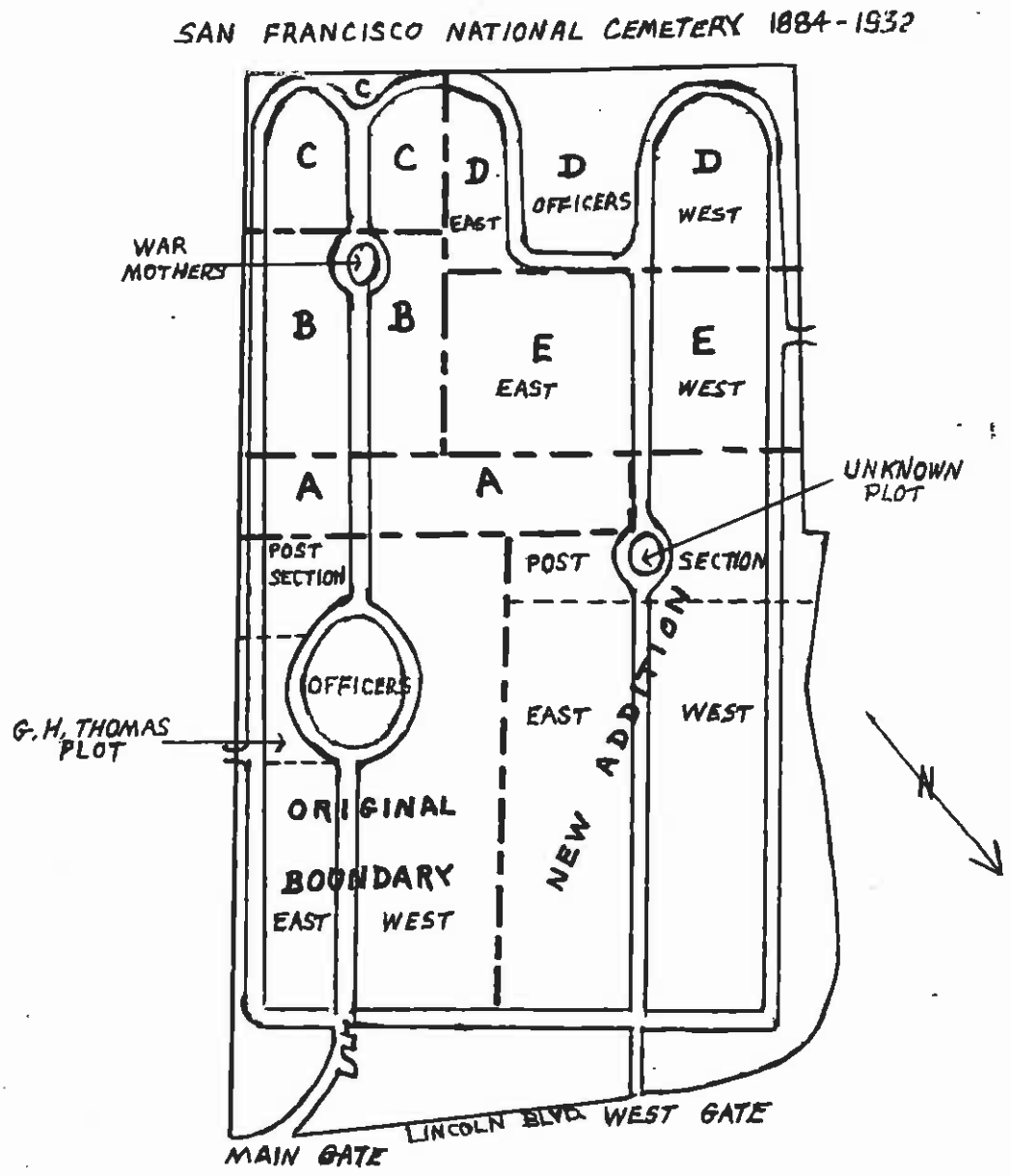
wharf. From then on soldiers escorted remains from the morgue directly to the national cemetery.[12]

In 1903 the first notice was made of remains from the armed forces other than the Army arriving at the Presidio. In June 1903 the Field Artillery dispatched a four-horse caisson to the Lombard Street Gate to receive the remains of a sailor from USS *Wyoming*. Then, in January 1904 a funeral was held for two enlisted men of the U.S. Marine Corps. The Field Artillery furnished a caisson and the Coast Artillery provided an escort, pallbearers, and a musician.

In 1904, the War Department General Orders 100, 1904, had raised the cemetery from fourth to first class. The San Francisco depot quartermaster was the supervisor, and the number of interments totaled 4,563. A rubblestone wall surrounded the cemetery on the east, south, and west sides. The north, or front, side had an iron railing along it and double, iron gates stood at the entrance. By then a section had been set aside for officers and the old post cemetery still could be identified. Buildings consisted of a brick, one-and-a-half-story "lodge" that had six rooms, outhouses, and a one-story, wood-frame storehouse. The cemetery also had an iron flagstaff.[13]

After 1903 the number of interments averaged about 350 annually. During the fourth quarter of 1906, for example, the following burials took place: October 26, seven soldiers and sailors; October 30, one soldier and one civilian employed by the Quartermaster Department; November 2, five soldiers and sailors; November 9, one soldier from the General Hospital; November 23, five soldiers and one civilian; November 30, one civilian employee, Quartermaster Department; December 30, one soldier from the morgue, Presidio wharf.

On November 16 funeral services were held for Maj. Gen. William R. Shafter at San Francisco's Trinity Church. Eight Presidio sergeants bore the body from the church to a caisson drawn by eight horses. The general's sword and chapeau rested on the flag-draped casket. Shafter's horse, draped in a black pall and with spurred boots thrown over the saddle, followed. Three battalions of troops marched to the national cemetery. A fog and drizzle drifted over the scene. Soldiers fired three volleys, a bugler sounded taps, and a 13-gun salute echoed over the bay. One of the eight pallbearers was Lt. Gen. Arthur MacArthur, the division commander.[14]



Original Boundary, GO 133, Hd., Army, 1884, 9.5 acres
New Addition, GO 7, Hd., Army, 1896, 6 acres
Section A, Act of July 19, 1919, 3.5 acres
Section B, Approved by Sect. of War, 1924, 2.034 acres
Section C, Approved by Sect. of War, 1928, 2.034 acres
Sections D and E, Approved by Sect. of War, 1932, 5.124 acres

Map of San Francisco National Cemetery, showing its development from 1884 to 1932. *Erwin Thompson, from a photograph in the collection of Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

When Major Harts wrote his report on the expansion of the Presidio in 1907, he discussed the national cemetery in some detail. The total interments to June 30, 1906, numbered 5,357, and the total number of graves came to only 5,281 owing to some graves containing more than one body. Only 1,522 spaces were available for future burials. Harts estimated that the cemetery would be filled in four and a half years. He considered the location of the cemetery to be "unfortunate" and did not think it should be expanded inasmuch as the site was suited to quarters or barracks. General MacArthur, however, had given instructions to select ground for an extension. That being the case, Harts recommended 14 acres to the southwest be added.

Harts continued to be concerned. "It is an unwelcome and depressing sight to have headstones continually in evidence." Perhaps the national cemetery could be moved to Angel Island or Benicia Barracks. A handsome crematory in the present cemetery would also solve the matter of adequate space. He listed his recommendations in order of preference:

> entirely remove the cemetery
> construct a crematory
> extend cemetery 14 acres.[15]

Expansion came, but not immediately. On July 19, 1919, an act of Congress added Section A, containing 3.5 acres to the southwest, giving the cemetery a total of 19 acres. The secretary of war added Section B, 2.034 acres, in 1924; and Section C, also 2.034 acres, in 1928. Finally the Army added Sections D and E, together 5.124 acres, in 1932, giving the cemetery a total of slightly more than 28 acres.[16]

A concrete rostrum, 155, was constructed for ceremonial purposes in 1915 and in 1921 the Quartermaster Department built a mortuary chapel, 150, at the cemetery. The Army developed a five-year plan in 1926 for improving the San Francisco National Cemetery. Construction completed in 1929 included remodeling of the lodge, 151, changing its character from a brick Victorian to a stucco-covered, Mission Revival residence; a concrete garage and tool house, 154, that replaced an unsightly mule stable; and a concrete comfort station, 152, also a replacement.[17]

The cemetery experienced a public relations crisis in the 1920s. In March 1924 *The Legion News* reported that the Zane-Irwin Post of the American Legion had written in asking why the graves of enlisted men received less care than the graves of officers. Col. L. H. Bash, the San

Above: Caretaker's lodge, 151, San Francisco National Cemetery. Built by the Quartermaster Department, circa 1884, when the cemetery became national. The front wall bears a bronze tablet, "Lincoln Memorial Tablet," later mounted on the rostrum in the cemetery's memorial area. Photograph, circa 1928, is of the south and east elevations. *San Francisco National Cemetery.*

Below: In 1926 the quartermaster recommended the lodge be remodeled to conform with other structures having Spanish Mission architecture. Work was completed in 1929. Photograph, circa 1930, shows the one-story, plastered residence with its redesigned porch. Other buildings at the national cemetery followed suit. *San Francisco National Cemetery.*

Above: San Francisco National Cemetery. Old stable and tool house, facing east, circa 1928. *San Francisco National Cemetery.*

Below: San Francisco National Cemetery. Garage, 154, constructed in 1934. *San Francisco National Cemetery.*

Francisco depot quartermaster, dashed off a letter to Washington recommending that the national commander of the American Legion be asked not to print such material until he ascertained the facts. He added that the enlisted men's graves were better maintained than the officers'.

Bash's problems continued. In 1927 the *San Francisco Chronicle* published an article bearing some alarming headlines: "San Francisco Gold Star Mothers Ask Cemetery Aid," "Presidio Plots Unkempt and Ragged," "Congress Action Sought." The account explained that the mothers wanted an immediate grant of $25,000 and $50,000 later. They had presented Congresswoman Florence P. Kahn with a resolution that she would take to Washington. Bash sent the article to the quartermaster general saying he was sure the cemetery superintendent, C. C. Church, was responsible for getting the women worked up. Bash had gone to the women telling them that everything possible was already being done. He also wrote to Congresswoman Kahn to explain the situation. He concluded his letter saying, "I am sorry now that I did not recommend the transfer of Mr. Church when I had a good excuse therefore.... He is a sort of professional patriot and a member of various veteran organizations."[18]

The addition of Section C in 1928 necessitated a realignment of the cemetery's boundary walls. The quartermaster officer reported having relocated 234 feet of rubble bluestone wall 18 inches thick, removing an iron picket fence 422 feet long and resetting the same, resetting the former iron main gates to the west entrance to the cemetery, and erecting 341 additional feet of new iron fencing. Handsome new iron gates for the main entrance, costing $7,350 to install, arrived in 1931. Contractor T. B. Goodwin carried out the stonework, erecting gate posts and walls of Indiana limestone, and the Anchor Post Fence Company did the metal work. Ninth Corps headquarters reported that the public commented favorably about these improvements.[19]

A major change in administration occurred in 1930 when responsibility for the national cemetery transferred from the Quartermaster Supply Officer at Fort Mason, to the Ninth Corps area headquarters at the Presidio. By then the cemetery contained 8,937 identified and 510 unidentified dead of the U.S. Army and Navy. Only one Confederate grave, that of Robert Creighton, adjutant, 35th USC Infantry, was to be found. Creighton most recently had been employed in the Quartermaster Department.[20]

Above: Monument at the grave of Maj. Gen. William R. Shafter who served as post commander of the Presidio, 1896-1897. He commanded U. S. troops in Cuba, 1898, and was commanding general of the Department of California in 1897 and again in 1898-1899. General Shafter's Medal of Honor (Civil War) is not displayed on the monument. *Erwin Thompson photograph, 1993.*

Below: Grave marker for Lt. Gen. Hunter Liggett who commanded the Western Department at San Francisco twice, 1917 and 1919-1921. During the latter tour, the Western Department became the Ninth Corps Area and Liggett moved the headquarters from San Francisco to the Presidio. To the rear is the grave marker bearing the Medal of Honor for Maj. Gen. Frederick Funston who commanded the Department of California at the time of the 1906 earthquake. *Erwin Thompson photograph, 1993.*

Ninth Corps headquarters employed a plant pathologist to examine the cemetery's vegetation in 1931. He reported that most of the trees were Monterey cypresses and were in good condition. Also thriving were shrubs and young trees planted in the front section in 1929. Not doing well were twelve deciduous oaks planted near the superintendent's residence. Also in poor shape were viburnums planted along the south side of the memorial court. He thought that neither was suited to the climate. He found the graves to be in poor condition — dead grass, weeds, and insufficient water. In addition to the six unskilled laborers already employed, he recommended hiring two men for lawn duty only or installing a stationary sprinkler system. He also recommended adding a gardener to the staff.

Headquarters also replaced the macadam roads with asphaltic concrete in 1931 and had additional work done on curbs, walls, and gates in 1933, this latter work costing $5,875. In November 1935 a wind storm blew over 18 Monterey cypress trees along Lincoln Boulevard opposite the national cemetery. The trees broke the iron fence and damaged the roofs of the cemetery buildings.[21]

The American War Mothers of San Francisco received permission to erect a marker at the cemetery in 1934. That same year the quartermaster general permitted the removal of the Lincoln Memorial Tablet from the side of the lodge to a panel in front of the rostrum at the memorial court.

One of the more unusual events at the national cemetery occurred in 1936. The remains of seven U.S. Navy men who had died in China between 1872 and 1895 arrived. The Navy requested that the remains be buried with as little publicity as possible and without the press's knowledge. Because of the long time since the deaths the Navy did not attempt to communicate with next of kin.

An inspection in March 1941 disclosed that only 80 burial spaces remained in the enlisted men's section and it would be filled before the end of the month. The Presidio post section still had 238 available grave sites, enough for six more years. The officers' section had 237 available grave sites. The inspecting officer commented that headstones were poorly aligned.[22]

World War II had only slight impact on the San Francisco National Cemetery. In 1942 orders came to turn in all war relics for creating scrap metal. The two-wheel field piece at the south

end of the officers' section, two trench mortars at the north end of officers' section, two other trench mortars located in front of the rostrum, and two 7-inch field pieces on four wheels and also near the rostrum, and the iron railing around the 7-inch guns, a total of 30,445 pounds, were turned in. One other wartime event was the employment of the Italian Service Unit personnel in maintenance work. Due to a lack of supervision, maintenance remained inadequate.[23]

In 1947 the San Francisco National Cemetery announced that it was closing for future burials, all available space having been taken. The Army opened the Golden Gate National Cemetery at San Bruno south of San Francisco. The cemetery at the Presidio that had begun as a small post burial ground now contained more than 22,200 graves — soldiers, sailors, marines, their wives and children, and some civilians. The future brought maintenance issues, improvements, and some new construction. In 1948 an inspecting officer noted that the cemetery chapel was rarely used as such, whereas the superintendent had to maintain a tiny office in his residence. At the same time a large army chapel, 130, stood nearby. Before long the remodeled chapel became a satisfactory office.[24]

In 1937 land-starved San Francisco closed all its cemeteries and removed all remains to new burying grounds at Colma south of the city. In the 1950s the idea arose that the Army should also move the San Francisco National Cemetery. The Army was adamant in its opposition, saying that national cemeteries were permanent installations and removal was not contemplated. Shortly thereafter another 26.84 acres of Presidio land was transferred to the Quartermaster Corps as an addition to the national cemetery. When the Army proceeded to remove eucalyptus trees, the city and county of San Francisco protested strongly that the clearing would destroy the historic skyline. The issue was finally put to rest in 1962 when the commanding general of the Sixth U.S. Army received back the acreage as part of the Presidio.[25]

On June 18, 1973, President Richard M. Nixon signed the National Cemeteries Act that transferred 82 of the U.S. Army's 84 national cemeteries from the secretary of the army to the administrator of veterans affairs. San Francisco National Cemetery was included in that transfer. The two remaining under army jurisdiction were both in the Washington, D.C. area — Arlington National Cemetery and the Soldiers Home.

Above: North gate, San Francisco National Cemetery. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, June 1990.*

Below: A military funeral at the San Francisco National Cemetery, Presidio of San Francisco, circa 1930s. *William A. Kobbe Collection, U.S. Army Military History Institute.*

San Francisco National Cemetery has four special monuments: The Grand Army of the Republic Memorial commemorating the Civil War; the Pacific Garrison Memorial honoring the dead of the Regular Army and Navy; the American War Mothers Monument; and the Unknown Soldier, "the remains of some 517 unknown regrouped from locations throughout the cemetery," reinterred in this location in 1934.

Eleven Medal of Honor recipients repose there, four of whom brought honor to themselves in the Indian Wars:

Sgt. John Mitchell, Infantry (Texas 1874)
Lt. (Maj.) William R. Parnell, Cavalry (Nez Perce War 1877)
Sgt. William Foster, Cavalry (Texas 1872)
Sgt. William Wilson, Cavalry (Texas 1872)

The remaining seven served the nation in other wars:

Lt. (Maj. Gen.) William R. Shafter, Infantry (Civil War)
Sgt. James Madison, Cavalry (Civil War)
Sgt. William H. Tompkins, Cavalry (Spanish-American War)
Col. Frederick Funston, Infantry (Philippine Insurrection)
Cpl. Reuben J. Phillips, U.S. Marine Corps (Boxer Rebellion)
Sgt. Lloyd M. Seibert, Infantry (World War I)
Capt. Reginald B. Desiderio, Infantry (Korea) (awarded posthumously)

One other recipient of the medal, Lt. Abraham DeSomer (Mexico 1914), buried elsewhere, is memorialized at the national cemetery. Each of these grave markers, except General Shafter's, bears the Medal of Honor in gold leaf.

These soldiers share the hallowed ground with thousands of others: unidentified victims of the 1906 earthquake; Maj. Gen. Irvin McDowell, whose small standard-issue headstone marks Grave 1, Plot 1, Officers' Section; Lt. Gen. Hunter Liggett; Adm. Oscar W. Farenholt; Union spy Pauline Cushman Fryer; Col. Edward Dickinson Baker; Two Bit; Lt. Col. Barton Stone Alexander; Maj. Dana Crissy; and U.S. Congressman Philip Burton.

Bodies were brought to this national cemetery from a navy cemetery on Yerba Buena Island at the time of construction of the Bay Bridge and from Camp Reynolds on Angel Island when that post closed following World War II. British, French, and Canadian military personnel who died on duty in the United States during World War I were buried here.[26]

Monument erected by the George H. Thomas Post, Grand Army of the Republic, to the veterans of the Civil War. Located in the G. H. Thomas Plot, San Francisco National Cemetery. *Erwin Thompson photograph, 1993.*

San Francisco National Cemetery, the first national cemetery on the west coast, reposes in peace and dignity, the final resting place of national heroes. A significant part of the nation's history, it contains the graves of the unknowns and those whom history remembers.

Chapter 12 Notes:

1. PSF, Post Returns, 1847–1849. The post returns did not record deaths of women, children, or male civilians. It should be noted that the post returns were not always accurate.

2. Chappell, *Presidio of San Francisco, A Collection*, Presidio. 266; A. L. Bivens, August 30, 1955, to Sixth U.S. Army, PSF Lands, RG 393, NA—Pacific Sierra Region.

3. G. Ramsay, June 16, 1866, to M. Meigs, PSF, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA. By 1866 the post returns had recorded 36 soldier deaths, more than one-third of them occurring in 1865 when the Presidio's strength had grown to almost 1,700 men.

4. G. L. Anderson, July 18, 1879, to quartermaster general, PSF, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA; Commanding officer, PSF, June 23, 1879, to post quartermaster, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA.

5. J. Simpson, Records of Deceased, December 31, 1873, and December 31, 1874, PSF, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA. The post returns for 1873 reflected the Modoc War — three enlisted men natural deaths, nine enlisted men killed in action, one officer natural death, and four officers killed in action. See also Risch, *Quartermaster Support*, p. 467.

6. C. L. Best, March 31, 1883, Cartographic Records, OCE, Miscellaneous Fortifications File, RG 77; Commanding officer, PSF, circa 1883, Post Endorsements, PSF, RG 393, NA; U.S. Army, *Outline Descriptions*, 1904, p. 376. Colonel Andrews was buried in the national cemetery, July 3, 1887.

7. C. L. Best, March 31, 1885, to Department of California, PSF, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA; *Alta California*, May 31, 1888.

8. Harts, *Report*, p. 79; File, "Military Reservations, California," Master Plans, PSF.

9. Chief quartermaster, Quartermaster Depot, December 15, 1897. The correspondence consistently referred to the post cemetery and only to "soldiers."

10. Harts, *Report*, p. 79; U.S. Veterans Administration, "National Cemetery System History," typescript, p. 6; Department of California, January 26, 1900, to PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

11. H. B. Freeman, January 8, 1900, to Department of California; R. I. Eskridge, March 11, 1900, to Department of California; J. B. Rawles, August 3 to Depot Quartermaster and September 24, 1900, to F. Benedict, PSF, Letters Sent; PSF Special Orders 113, May 1, 1900, and 321, December 2, 1900, RG 393, NA.

12. Rawles, January 16, 1901, to Department of California, PSF, Letters Sent; Post Quartermaster, February 15, 1901, to commanding officer, PSF; Depot Quartermaster, March 9, 1901, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

13. E. Millar, June 10, 1903, to commanding officer, 24th Battery, Field Artillery; PSF, Special Orders 10, January 12, 1904, RG 393, NA; War Department, *Outline Description of ...National Cemeteries, 1904*, Master Plans, PSF.

14. PSF, Special Orders, October 26–December 30, 1906; *The San Francisco Call*, November 16, 1906.

15. Harts, *Report*, pp. 79–82.

16. File, "Military Reservations, California," Master Plans, PSF. Area E had previously been a pistol range.

17. L. H. Bask, September 17, 1926, to quartermaster general, PSF, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

18. Bash, March 26, 1924, to quartermaster general, enclosing *The Legion News*, March 15, 1924; and November 18, 1927, enclosing clipping from *San Francisco Chronicle*, n.d., PSF, GCGF, OQMG, RG 92, NA. By this time a concrete wall and fence had enclosed the new Section B and water supply pipes were laid.

Gold Star Mothers is a national organization of mothers in the United States who have lost children in combat in the armed forces. A local organization existed in San Francisco in 1927. The national organization, founded in 1928, is headquartered in Washington, D.C. Members display a gold-fringed white flag with a gold star in the middle.

19. C. W. Haney, October 25, 1929, completion report; unsigned completion report, May 18, 1931; J. R. R. Hannay, June 11, 1931, to adjutant general, PSF, GCGF, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

20. C. R. Bennett, May 5, 1930, to commanding officer, Fort Mason; C. C. Church, November 26, 1928, to quartermaster, Fort Mason, PSF, GCGF, OQMG, RG 92, NA. The meaning of USC is unknown.

21. W. W. Wagener, September 18, 1981, report on vegetation; completion report, September 24, 1931; Construction contract, December 21, 1933; and F. E. Davis, November 12, 1935, to quartermaster general, GCGF, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

22. J. H. Laubach, January 10, 1934, to American Monumental Company; Quartermaster general, April 17, 1934, to Ninth Corps Area; P. S. Rossiter, February 20, 1936, to commanding officer, Twelfth Naval District; E. A. Anderson, March 3, 1941, inspection report, PSF, GCGF, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

23. C. Kearney, October 13, 1942, to Ninth Service Command; R. F. Bartz, June 9, 1945, to commanding general, Army Service Forces, PSF, GCGF, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

24. F. A. Kirk, September 22, 1948, to Chief, Memorial Service, PSF, GCGF, OQMG, RG 92, NA; A. L. Bivens, August 30, 1955, to Ninth Corps Area, PSF Lands, RG 338, NA. A new count in 1962 reached a total of 25,363 burials.

25. A. L. Bivins, August 30, 1955, to Sixth U.S. Army, PSF Lands, RG 393, NA—Pacific Sierra Region; Binder, "Prior Expansion Summary San Francisco N.C.," Master Plans, PSF; *San Francisco Examiner*, May 16, 1961; *The Denver Post*, November 21, 1993.

26. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, San Francisco National Cemetery, San Francisco California (n.p., n.p.); "San Francisco National Cemetery," Master Plans, PSF; A. L. Bivens, August 30, 1955, PSF Lands, RG 393, NA—Pacific Sierra Region.

Chapter 13. The Presidio Garrison, 1898–1905

The Garrison

In 1898 volunteer organizations from many states poured into San Francisco to receive a modicum of training and be issued clothing and equipment before sailing for the Philippine Islands. A year later these regiments returned to California, and Regular Army units replaced them in the Pacific. From 1902 to 1905 the Infantry cantonment occupied the eastern portion of the Presidio reservation. Independent of the Presidio, the cantonment reported directly to the Department of California headquarters in San Francisco. Throughout these years the Presidio garrison continued to carry out its missions despite the whirlwind of activity surrounding it.

In 1898 alone, five different post commanders, including a brigadier general, regulated the garrison that was composed of the three combat arms†: infantry, artillery, and cavalry. The average strength over the 12 months amounted to 30 officers and 1,024 enlisted men.[1] The post adjutant announced in January that each company could have only two dogs as mascots. The post quartermaster purchased car tickets at five cents each for the messenger service. Because of faulty installation nearly all the toilet bowls in the five brick barracks had broken, and a month later the quartermaster had to have the barracks sewer lines taken up and relaid (the general hospital then occupied two of these barracks). Colonel Miles discovered that a civilian fisherman had been living on the post for the past four years without authorization, whereas the 18 civilians employed in the Quartermaster Department were legally on duty.[2]

The phrase "an officer and a gentleman" is much more than a cliche in the U.S. Army, "The military officer is considered a gentleman, not because Congress wills it...but specifically because nothing less than a gentleman is truly suited for his particular set of responsibilities."[3] During its nearly 150 years of service as an American military post, the Presidio of San Francisco enjoyed a reputation of having an outstanding officer corps. A careful study of the historical record for the latter half of the nineteenth century showed that only rarely in those years did the occasional officer fail in his moral responsibilities. In those instances that did occur, money was nearly always the issue.

For instance, in the tumultous year of 1898 when thousands of troops passed through the Presidio, events overwhelmed Lt. Alexander T. Dean, 4th Cavalry, then in his eighteenth year

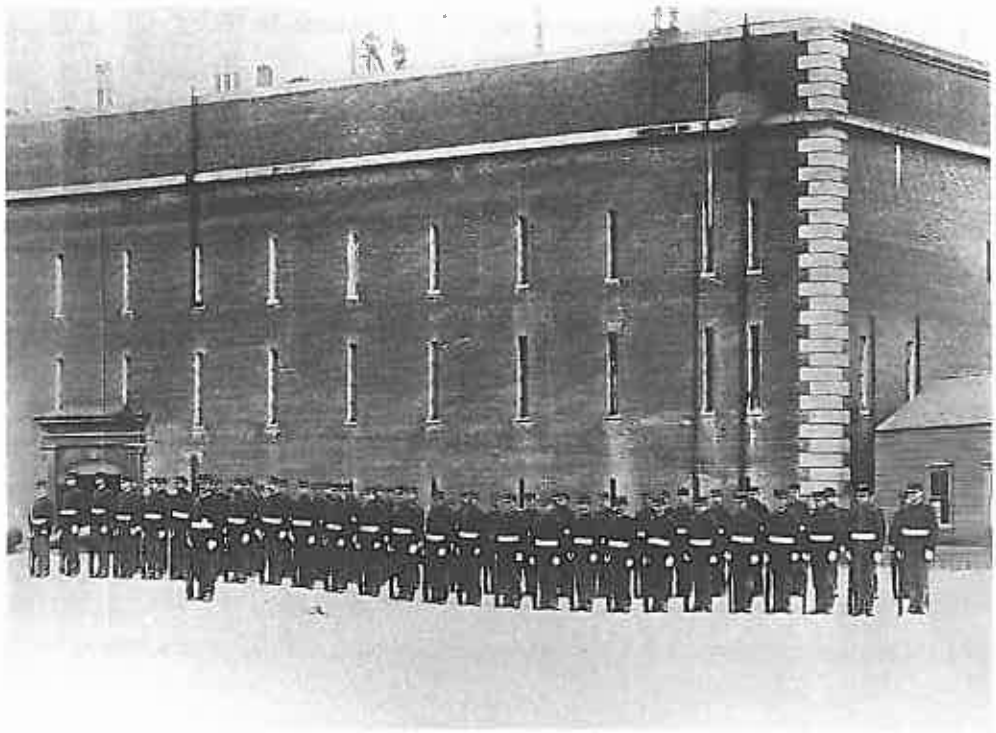
of active duty. Dean had a most difficult time keeping out of debt. Unfortunately, he duplicated his pay account, only to be discovered. His wife had already departed for her native country; Lieutenant Dean promptly resigned from the Army. A year later when the Presidio's strength had greatly declined, Lt. John M. Neall, 4th Cavalry, just a week before his promotion to captain came through, suddenly disappeared. For little more than a month he had had charge of the post exchange. Following an investigation, the post commander wrote that $3,677.02 of exchange funds had disappeared also. Then, a month later, Neall reappeared at the Presidio and turned in almost $5,000. Following a court martial, he was dismissed from the Army.[4]

Horses were the subject of much correspondence this year. In May the commanding officer of Troop B, 4th Cavalry, requested that his troop be furnished with 44 dark bay horses. If he acquired them, it was but for a short time, because the 4th Cavalry squadron left for the Philippines without its horses. The animals went to other 4th Cavalry units at Fort Walla Walla and Boise Barracks. With the 4th Cavalry gone, the 1st Troop, Utah Volunteer Cavalry, guarded the national parks that year. General Miller arranged matters so that the two surgeons and two privates of the Hospital Corps received excess cavalry horses for the patrols to Yosemite and Sequoia. A piece of correspondence confirmed the fact that during these years dead horses and other animals were cremated at the dump ground on the Lower Presidio.[5]

The Chief Engineer of the San Francisco Fire Department, D. T. Sullivan, asked permission to see "the big guns" of the modern coastal batteries in November. Like so many others over the years, he learned that only the secretary of war could give such permission. The letter he received indicates that the engineers had already erected wire enclosures around the fortifications.

A general order listing the post's bugle calls near the end of 1898 showed that the daily routine of the garrison had changed little. Among the new calls were Calisthenics for Infantry, Noncommissioned Officers School, Officers' Lyceum, Litter Bearer Drill, and Boat Call that sounded 10 minutes before the wagonette left for the Presidio wharf on Thursdays and Fridays.[6]

The year ended with the return of Brig. Gen. William Shafter from his Cuban exploits to resume command of the Department of California. The George A. Thomas Post 2, Grand Army of the Republic, San Francisco, added Shafter's name to its rolls and welcomed him



Possibly Battery I, 3d Artillery, that garrisoned the fort at Fort Point in March 1899 in order to assist in mounting the modern coastal guns that were being installed at Fort Winfield Scott. *U.S. Army Military History Institute.*

back with a reception. About this time Shafter received a letter from a black soldier who had served under him in the Civil War asking for his help in obtaining a pension. Having reached retirement age, Shafter retired on October 16, 1899, but remained on duty until June 1901 when he was promoted to major general on the retired list.[7]

The Presidio's strength declined greatly in 1899 with an average complement of 17 officers and 441 men. Again, the garrison consisted of the three combat arms. Personnel problems, both usual and unusual, became part of the record. Lt. Henry C. Evans, 3d Artillery, received a letter from the post adjutant asking for an explanation in writing why he had used profane language in addressing two members of the guard. His response seems not to have been recorded. Meetings of the officers' lyceum in February 1899 offered the following papers: "Military Notes on the Philippine Islands," "Army Cooking," "The Fourth Cavalry in the National Parks," and "Volunteer Infantry." A cavalry sergeant named Wilson became a local hero in April 1899 when he rescued a drowning man near Fort Point. Although recommended for a promotion to second lieutenant, Sergeant Wilson had to settle for a Certificate of Merit.

Soldiers again occupied the old masonry fort at Fort Point in 1899, when Battery I, 3d Artillery, marched there from the Presidio in March. This time overcrowding at the main post did not cause the transfer; rather, the need for the artillerymen to assist in mounting modern weapons in the new batteries and for the maintenance of the guns caused the change. In retrospect, this troop movement might be considered an early step in the establishment of a permanent garrison at Fort Winfield Scott.

In March 1901 the Presidio commander, Col. Jacob B. Rawles, 3d Artillery, received a letter from the department asking for a post return for the troops stationed at Fort Scott. Rawles replied that Fort Winfield Scott was part of the Presidio and that the battery at Fort Point (by then the 28th Company, Coast Artillery) had quarters in the old casemates but was accounted for on the Presidio's post returns. Washington was not satisfied, "While the fact is *now* well known at this Office that Fort Winfield Scott is a sub-post of the Presidio, in ten years hence there would be nothing to show who commanded, or what was stationed there."

Rawles attempted to explain further saying that he had no recent records pertaining to Fort Scott, "I have never known that [the fort] of recent years, was regarded in any other light than as a barracks for one battery the same as the individual barracks nearer post headquarters. There is no Adjutant, Quartermaster, medical officer nor noncommissioned staff.... It is probably known at the War Department that this Fort is entirely abandoned...its present occupation by one battery of Artillery is occasioned simply by the fact that there is no other place in the vicinity [where] the new line of...modern armament is mounted wherein to quarter the command having the latter in charge."

Rawles did not win. The department commander, General Shafter, ordered Rawles to prepare a one-time post return for Fort Winfield Scott covering the period from July 1900 to April 1901:

> July 1900 — January 1901, Battery E, 3d Artillery average strength — one officer, 91 enlisted men
>
> February — April 1901, 28th Company, Coast Artillery average strength — one officer, 85 enlisted men.[8]

Rules and regulations bombarded the Presidio garrison as before. In March 1899 news reporters learned that no one could use a camera on the reservation. Women received notice they could neither enter a barracks nor sit on barracks porches or steps. Privates were not allowed to "walk, stand, or lie" on the boardwalk leading from officers' row to the car terminus. For some time a civilian had been allowed to maintain a fruit stand at the terminus. By the spring of 1899 this man had come to think of himself as having vested rights in the enterprise. Finally, his attitude caused the Army to remove him from the reservation. A branch of the post exchange opened at the site. It supplied cigars and candy to soldiers and visitors and the profits contributed to the comfort and welfare of the command.[9]

Still the regulations came down from on high. In January 1900 enlisted men learned they no longer could have civilian clothing in their possession. Cavalry troopers returning from the Pacific had to get rid of their khaki uniforms; only heavy artillery troops could wear that uniform on the mainland. In May 1900 all soldiers learned that San Francisco's Chinatown was off limits.[10]

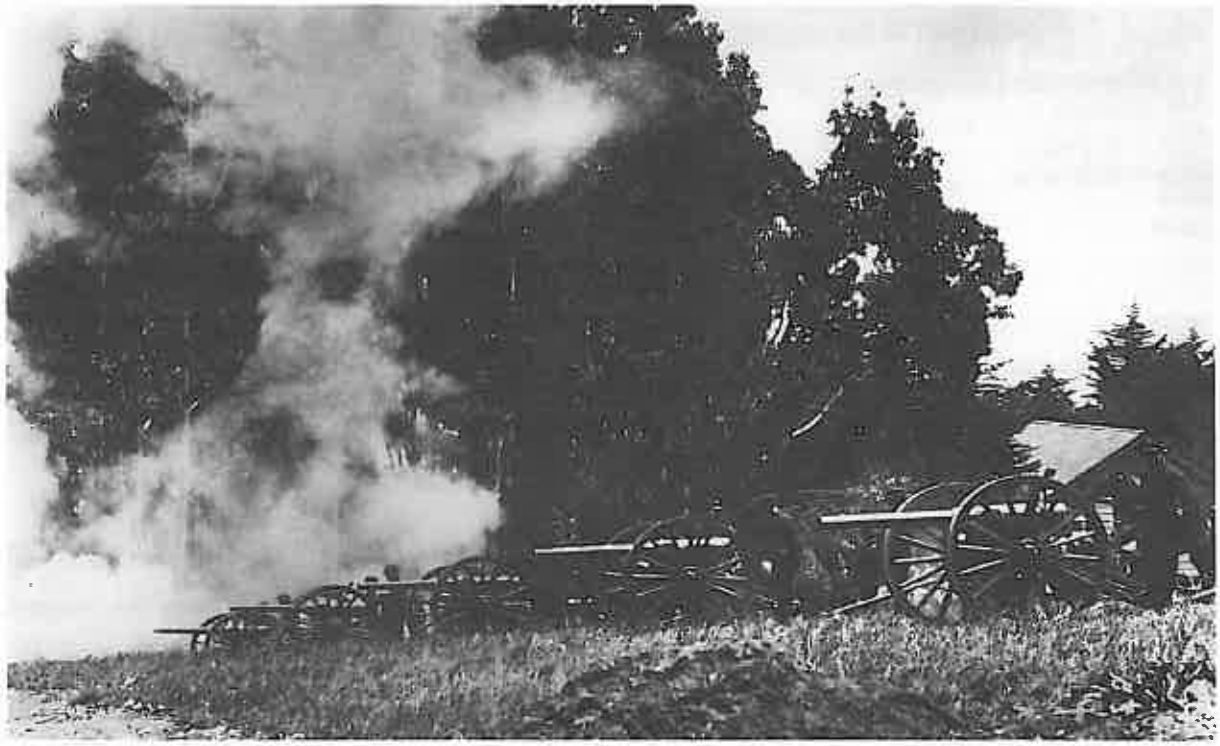
Electrician Sgt.† Charles Doyle, engineer at the Dynamite Battery, confessed in 1900 that under the name of William Steffy he had deserted from the Army in 1881 and for 18 years had constantly feared being discovered. The post ordnance officer now came to his defense requesting a pardon for the sergeant, as he had suffered enough. Another sergeant, Robert Z. Wilson, was murdered in the city about this time. The post commander heard that the wife of a soldier in the Philippines might have been involved.[11]

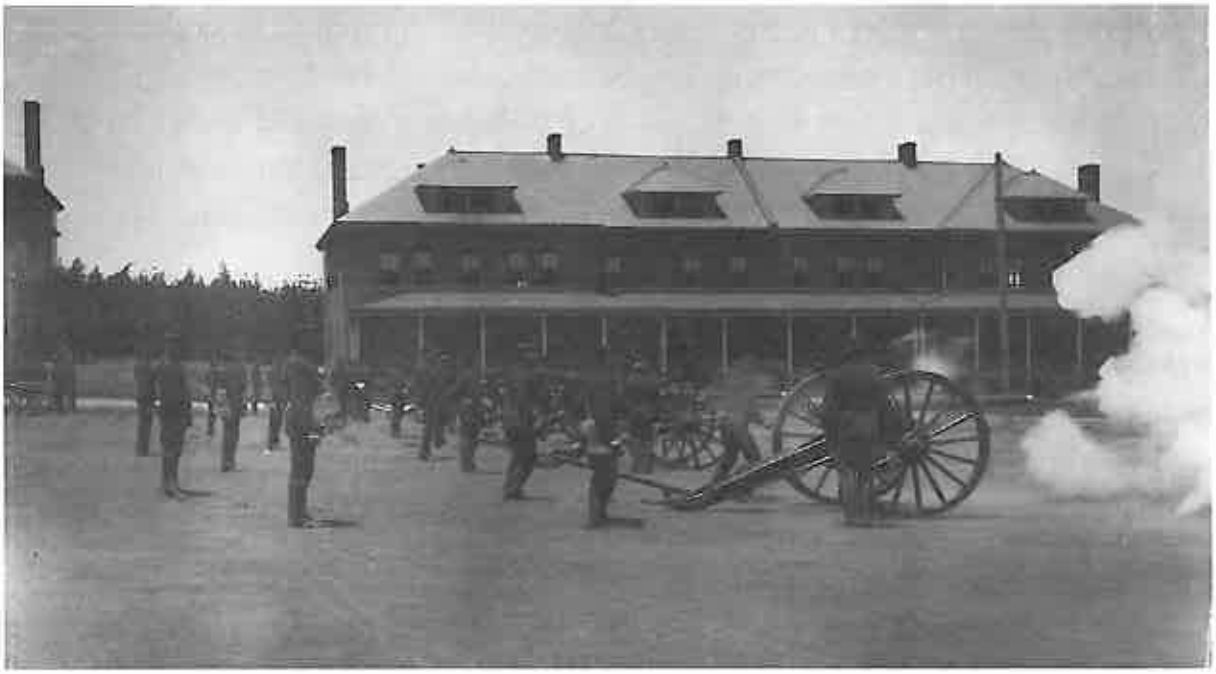
Colonel Rawles, who commanded the Presidio from 1900 to 1903, became utterly frustrated on the occasion when he learned that a guard of three corporals and six privates had allowed five prisoners to escape from an old kitchen and mess building that had been converted to a prison. It seemed that the men had escaped through a hole measuring 11 inches by 12 1/2 inches in the floor. It had originally been cut for a cat to go in or out. Other Presidio soldiers earned the thanks of the nearby Fulton Iron Company for helping to put out a fire. A gift of $100 purchased reading material for the post library.[12]

Little mention of army wives during this period has survived in official correspondence. In May 1900, however, the post chaplain, Joseph A. Potter, received orders to survey the women and children of soldiers serving overseas to determine any problems they experienced. He found only two situations requiring attention. Both women's husbands served in the 24th

Above: Cleaning and servicing 3.2-inch, breech-loading, rifled field guns, limbers and caissons, circa 1901. Soldiers are in stable dress. Building 36, artillery barracks, is on the far left. Cavalry barracks 86 and 87 are in the distance, with bedding on the porch railing. At an earlier time, such a display was strictly prohibited at the Presidio. *California Section, California State Library.*

Below: A battery of five 3.2-inch breech-loading, rifled field artillery pieces at practice firing, circa 1901, at Presidio of San Francisco. *History Department, Wells Fargo Bank.*





Above: Field artillery battery practice with 3.2-inch, rifled, breech-loading field guns, circa 1900-1901. In front of the brick barracks. View toward the west. (This view later appeared as a postcard.) *California Section, California State Library.*

Below: Another view of field artillery battery practice, eastward from a front porch of the Montgomery Street barracks. Tallest building in the left distance is the rear of cavalry barracks 86. *California Section, California State Library.*

Infantry, then in the Philippines. Mrs. Myers' husband had sent back no money since going overseas. Mrs. Holt had received funds but rheumatism had rendered her disabled. Colonel Rawles noted that these wives lived reasonably comfortably in converted kitchen buildings in one of the abandoned camp areas. About the same time the War Department asked if the widows and children of deceased soldiers lived on the reservation. The Presidio replied that none did.[13]

Beginning in 1901 the Presidio's personnel strength grew steadily, particularly in the artillery, because of the increases in the coastal defenses. The cavalry doubled, too, from two troops to a full squadron of four. Colonel Morris wrote about the need for more cavalry to control dogs running loose, automobiles speeding, fires, and incidents of robbery on the reservation:

January 1901: 19 officers, 685 enlisted men

coast artillery	1 company
field artillery	1 battery
cavalry	2 troops
infantry	3 companies

January 1902: 31 officers, 1,009 enlisted men

coast artillery	5 companies
field artillery	4 batteries
cavalry	5 troops
infantry	1 company

January 1903: 42 officers, 1,137 enlisted men

coast artillery	5 companies
field artillery	4 batteries
cavalry	4 troops

January 1904: 41 officers, 1,183 enlisted men

coast artillery	6 companies
field artillery	3 batteries
cavalry	4 troops

January 1905: 43 officers, 1,330 enlisted men

coast artillery	9 companies
field artillery	3 batteries
cavalry	4 troops[14]

The gradual increase in strength caused overcrowding problems at the Presidio. An assistant surgeon asked to be excused from duty as officer of the day at the post hospital because he had to live in San Francisco and there was no place on the post where he could be present for

the required 24 hours. A captain in Texas who had orders for the Philippines wrote the Presidio asking if it had quarters for his family. Colonel Rawles answered in the negative but suggested that the captain apply to Benicia Barracks. Even the chaplain said that the post chapel had become too crowded. He recommended construction of a new, larger chapel as a memorial to the late Maj. Gen. Henry W. Lawton, who had been killed at the battle of San Mateo in the Philippines in 1899. The chaplain believed that army personnel would contribute the necessary funds. Concerning the post Colonel Rawles reported in February 1901 that all the barracks, brick or wooden, were full and space did not permit for one more company. Only tents could provide additional facilities.[15]

The big event of 1901 came in May when Presidio soldiers provided the escort for the visit of President William McKinley at San Francisco. On May 17 the President visited the reservation and addressed a gathering in front of the new U.S. Army General Hospital. The field artillery fired a salute on McKinley's arrival. Only four months later the Presidio mourned the commander in chief's death at the hands of an assassin. On September 17 thirteen guns fired a salute at dawn and a single gun fired every 30 minutes throughout the day. At sunset a salute of the Union, 45 guns, ended the day.[16]

In May 1901 the War Department sent to the Presidio a revocable license for Mr. Bruce Porter, San Francisco, allowing him to extend his residence adjacent to the reservation over the boundary wall for a distance of 3 feet. Between 1881 and 1905, the Army issued ten such revocable licenses:

1881. Presidio Railroad Company, track extension
1888. U.S. Treasury Department, life saving purposes
1891. U.S. Treasury Department, tower at Fort Point
1892. Presidio and Ferries Railroad Co., cable railroad
1900. Mary Holt Rose, extend cottage 1 1/2 feet beyond wall
1900. Western Union Telegraph Co., change of telegraph line
1901. Bruce Porter, extension of residence
1902. Bernard Faymonville, extend cottage 3 feet
1905. U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, construct a dwelling
1905. J. D. Givens, temporary building for photo business[17]

The daily routine of the post was punctuated from time to time with minor events. The commanding officer of the 28th Company, Coast Artillery, at Fort Point reported in April 1901 that he had followed orders and had given a tour of one of the off-limits coastal batteries to six unidentified civilians (three ladies and three gentlemen). Modern technology again entered

Above: A military funeral at the Presidio, circa 1901. The regimental band is in the lead followed by a breech-loading field gun and limber; next a limber and caisson, followed by a carriage for the family. (Three enlisted men died at the Presidio in 1901.) *California Section, California State Library.*

Below: Second half of the funeral procession, showing the caisson bearing the body and a company of soldiers escorting it. In the background is the new brick guardhouse, 210, built in 1900. A portion of cavalry barracks 86 and most of cavalry barracks 87 are visible at the upper right. View toward the northeast. *California Section, California State Library.*

the picture that year when the quartermaster requested $20 to repair the post's three typewriters. Enlisted men continued to add interest to the post's correspondence. Rct. Ralph R. Henriche, cavalry, with the full support of his family, begged assignment to the Philippines. Colonel Rawles having learned the reason for the urgent request (but keeping it to himself), recommended approval. Two privates, Joseph M. Hayden and George E. Johnson, both Hospital Corps, had not waited for approval. They stowed away on army transport *Logan* only to be discovered in the Philippine Islands. Both returned to the Presidio under arrest. In contrast to their behavior, Cpl. Paul Arndt, 3d Band, Artillery Corps, followed the proper channels and received permission from the War Department to take a civil service examination in San Francisco.[18]

The main target range in the southwest corner of the reservation came under attack in 1902. As the Army had dreaded, stray bullets flew over the butts onto private property beyond. Because developers had begun to consider development on that property, the Presidio was forced to suspend rifle practice there indefinitely.[19]

Congressman Julius Kahn, San Francisco's Republican representative to the U.S. Congress, appreciative of the Army's presence in the Bay Area, wrote Colonel Rawles in 1902 seeking assistance for constituents. He asked the colonel to allow one citizen to remove sand from the Lower Presidio and, on another occasion, requested Rawles to appoint Walter McGinn to the position of post trainmaster† (for wagon and mule trains). Rawles probably was relieved to refer the congressman to the Department of California and the U.S. Civil Service.[20]

Several interesting events occurred in 1902. The Presidio's mounted patrol asked permission to ride the length of the footpath (Lovers Lane) from the main post to the Central Avenue gate. While Colonel Rawles noted the advantages of such a patrol, he declined to give approval saying that the walk was intended for pedestrians only, and was used by many ladies. Horses' hooves would only cut up the path, to say nothing of their droppings. That same year the U.S. postmaster general threatened to close the Presidio's post office at which widow Andrews still served as postmistress. Rawles wrote Washington, asking that effort be made to keep the office open and retain Mrs. Andrews. San Francisco physician Dr. F. R. Orella wrote a month later saying that a gun belonging to the field artillery had accidentally run into his buggy, smashing it. He now suffered nervous shock and wanted compensation. This issue dragged on for a long time without any apparent resolution.

When the 3d Squadron (Troops K, L, and M) of the 9th Cavalry arrived at the Presidio in October 1902, it was dismayed to find that its horses had been assigned to the new but flimsy shed stables that had been erected on "the flats" in the Lower Presidio. It applied for the stables on the bluff that former cavalry units had used, but to no avail. This incident began a long dreary discussion concerning these stables, and the wet ground on which they stood, that lasted until 1914. About the same time the post surgeon reported the unsanitary condition of the last remaining pond in the northeast corner of the reservation. He urged its clean up and continued maintenance because soldiers continued to bathe there.[21]

While the monthly reports of the Presidio's post surgeon have not been located, a letter by Maj. Henry S. Kilbourne in 1902 spelled out his several duties:

> On duty as surgeon in the post hospital.
>
> Member of a board of medical officers to examine candidates for the Medical Corps.
>
> Member of the Army Retiring Board at San Francisco.
>
> Member of a Board of Officers to examine officers for promotion.
>
> Member of a Board of Officers to examine civilian candidates for appointment as second lieutenants in the Army.

Despite the establishment of a general hospital at the Presidio, the post surgeon's responsibilities continued to increase. In 1904 Surgeon Maj. William Stephenson pleaded for the stationing of a third doctor at the Presidio because it now had one of the largest military populations in the Army. In addition to the 1,600-man garrison, the surgeons cared for a large contingent of active and retired officers' and soldiers' families, servants, widows, and families of soldiers in the Philippines living near the reservation. The two doctors also sat on examining and courts martial boards, supervised the medical needs of troops en route to and from the Philippines (vaccinations, sick calls, etc.), and completed the extensive administration work. The Army responded to this situation by assigning a third post surgeon to the Presidio at the end of 1904.[22]

Rawles, too, commented on his extensive duties: commander of a large post, commander of the Artillery District of San Francisco, and acting commander of the Department of California. The Presidio alone was a full time job, with its large garrison, the constantly changing

strength, the stopping place of all troops going to and returning from the Philippines, and the rendezvous for thousands of recruits. He asked to be relieved from his position as President of the Examining Board that determined officers' promotions.[23]

Lt. Gen. Nelson A. Miles, now the commanding general of the U.S. Army and nearing retirement, paid a two-day visit to the Presidio of San Francisco in September 1902. On the first day he toured the modern fortifications (24 heavy artillery pieces and 32 mortars) in the Fort Winfield Scott area and on the following morning he reviewed the Presidio troops (1,047 enlisted men, 400 horses, 24 field artillery, and 4 Colt automatic guns, .30 caliber).[24]

Col. Charles Morris, Artillery Corps, who took command of the Presidio in October 1903, tackled a new problem soon after his arrival — the automobile. Writing to the president of the Automobile Club of California, he noted with regret that autos utterly disregarded the posted speed limits. If drivers continued their defiance of the rules, he would take drastic measures. It seemed that a particular automobile had raced toward the general hospital at a reckless speed. When a sentinel ordered it to halt, the driver responded with, "Go to Hell." An army officer, mounted, gave chase and overtook the machine. He identified the driver as Dr. James Osborne of the City Hospital. A letter to the doctor asked him if he wished to make a statement regarding the incident.

Other incidents of speeding occurred. On one occasion the gate keepers had orders to prohibit "Automobile No. 8" from entering the reservation. General Orders published early in 1904 announced the speed limits:

> All roads east of the brick barracks — 6 miles per hour.
>
> Roads immediately in vicinity of officers' row — 4 miles per hour.
>
> All other roads — 10 miles per hour.
>
> Pedestrians had the right of way.[25]

A new chaplain arrived at the post in 1903 — Chaplain Patrick Hart, Artillery Corps and Roman Catholic. His arrival caused the preparation of a short history of the chapels. The quartermaster department performed the maintenance of the "regular" post chapel. Members of the garrison had installed the interior fittings, memorial windows, and organ during the time that Daniel Kendig had served as chaplain. For a number of years the former streetcar

station had served as a chapel for Catholics, with clergy from the city conducting services. Now, however, Chaplain Hart assumed responsibility for the post chapel. Protestants were granted use of the chapel on Sunday and Thursday evenings.[26]

Citizen C. L. Chester asked permission to take photographs on the reservation in 1903. The Army denied him a permit inasmuch as another person, J. D. Givens, already had a photo studio in the Infantry Cantonment. The Department of California had authorized Givens to occupy a small building near the streetcar terminal. He had enlarged it, converting the structure into a studio and living quarters. This structure (560) continued to serve as a studio as late as 1946 when the proprietor was Nita Paula Evans.[27]

President Theodore Roosevelt visited San Francisco in May 1903. During his stay, Troops I and M, 9th Cavalry, served as his escort. In addition, four companies of the Coast Artillery escorted the President from the Palace Hotel to the Mechanics Pavilion in Golden Gate Park. On May 13, President Roosevelt reviewed the command on the Presidio's golf links. The next day, the 60th Company, Coast Artillery, participated in the ceremonies for the dedication of the Naval Memorial Monument in Union Square in the city with the president in attendance.[28]

One year later, Maj. Gen. Arthur MacArthur, commanding the Pacific Division, inspected the Presidio. On the first day he inspected the entire command, under arms, on the golf links. A review followed with the cavalry and field artillery passing at a trot and a gallop. MacArthur then inspected the barracks, gymnasium, guardhouse, stables, storehouses, and bakery. On the following day the coastal batteries received his attention. This was the last inspection for the 3d Squadron, 9th Cavalry ("Buffalo Soldiers") at the Presidio. In July the squadron went on maneuvers for two months, returning, not to the garrison, but for a brief stopover at the Infantry Cantonment before transferring to Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. Capt. Charles Young, the third black graduate from West Point, who commanded Troop I, 9th Cavalry, had already departed the Presidio to be a military attaché at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.[29]

Distinguished visitors continued to be drawn to the Presidio and San Francisco. In October 1904 a battalion of Coast Artillery troops served as an escort to the Vice President Ramon Corral, Republic of Mexico. Several months later the Secretary of War William H. Taft reviewed the command. Maj. Gen. Samuel S. Sumner, Pacific Division, and Brig. Gen.

Visit of President Theodore Roosevelt to the Presidio of San Francisco, May 13, 1903. The president reviewed the garrison troops on the Presidio golf links. During his visit to San Francisco, Troops I and M, 9th Cavalry, served as Roosevelt's escort. The black woman in the crowd at lower right reportedly was married to an escort cavalryman. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Frederick Funston, Department of California, accompanied the secretary. Another visitor to San Francisco during these years, 2d Lt. Douglas MacArthur, fresh from his West Point graduation, spent the summer of 1903 at the Fort Mason quarters of his father, Maj. Gen. Arthur MacArthur. Following a tour in the Philippines, young MacArthur returned to San Francisco and took up duties with the U.S. Corps of Engineers (harbor defense and the California Debris Commission). Hardly had he begun that assignment when he received orders to join his father as an observer during the Russo-Japanese War.[30]

Life in the enlisted ranks evolved in unexpected ways as 1905 unwound. When an explosion tore apart the boiler room of USS *Bennington* in San Diego Harbor, one officer and 65 of the crew lay dead. The U.S. General Hospital at the Presidio immediately dispatched medical assistance. Later, one of the remains was interred at the Presidio's national cemetery. Chaplain Hart presided over the funeral of the late Chief Petty Officer Frank de Guston. Coast Artillery soldiers furnished the escort, pallbearers, firing party, and a musician. All the garrison, in dress uniform and white gloves, attended the burial. That summer Colonel Morris requested

that a second sergeant major be assigned to the Presidio. The administrative burden had become too great to be managed by just the traditional sergeant major. Marriage continued to be a problem for enlisted men. One soldier who had married without authorization was refused permission to reenlist. At the same time a married corporal was refused a discharge. While he had difficulty supporting his wife on a corporal's pay and had saved the necessary $65 to purchase an early discharge, the Army decided that his experience as an artilleryman could not be spared.[31]

Some enlisted men continued to tangle with authority. Two corporals of the 28th Infantry were arrested for fighting in front of officers' row one spring night. Just after the 67th Company, Coast Artillery, arrived at the Presidio after five years in Hawaii, a large number deserted. An investigation showed that they had to work harder in California, many were in debt, their commander was absent on detached service, their sergeants lacked leadership, and they hated marching across the reservation to practice on the coastal guns.

Other soldiers diverted their energies in more positive ways. The men of the 70th Company, Coast Artillery, received permission to form a dancing club and to give dances twice a month in the new brick gymnasium. When the Department of California sought lasso experts to round up loose cattle on Angel Island, Colonel Morris made a survey only to report that the Presidio had no rope experts. Pvt. Michael Flanigan, Coast Artillery, requested a five-month furlough in 1905 in order to visit his native country. Colonel Morris readily approved. For some months past Private Flanigan had been helping the wife of Maj. Benjamin H. Randolph care for her paralytic husband, the victim of a stroke. Flanigan planned to spend part of his leave packing the Randolphs' possessions.

Athletics continued to play an important role in the garrison's affairs. Prisoners from Alcatraz prepared a new athletic field in 1905. Before then, enlisted men had had access to baseball diamonds. The civilian-military Golf Club continued to be active, even if military reviews occasionally tore up the links. On one occasion an Australian cricket club sought permission to practice on the links.[32]

The civilian community continued to exert its influence on the garrison in the often tenuous relationship between the army and the city. In 1904 Colonel Morris found himself in an awkward situation when he had to write the mother of two small girls who had been picking flowers on officers' row for their "father's grave." The colonel wrote that this was an old ploy

and he was sure the mother would like to know about the girls. On another occasion, 75 men from San Francisco held a "boisterous" beer party on the banks of Lobos Creek. Thomas Clancy, 625 Kearny, and Ernest Buhlin, 716 Kearny, saloon keepers, had supplied the beer. This was not the first time a bacchanalia had been held on the banks, and Morris sought the help of the San Francisco chief of police in stopping further parties. In 1905 Max Ulrich of San Francisco sought permission to erect a banking house on the reservation. Morris strongly recommended disapproval as it would set a precedent in turning over portions of the reservation to civilian authorities. That fall a civilian male committed suicide on the reservation, possibly along Arguello Boulevard. A letter found on the body bore the name of L. G. Brandes of San Francisco.[33]

In 1904 the Presidio headquarters published a consolidation of the Post Orders. From that lengthy list the following have been extracted:

> A patient in the Post Hospital shall not be transferred to the General Hospital without the authority of the post commander.
>
> Men in confinement in the post guardhouse shall not have money.
>
> When drill for the Coast Artillery is to be indoors or when guard mounting is to be in campaign hats and leggings a red flag with a white center shall be hoisted above the Summary Court Office.
>
> Following rates to be charged for making and altering uniforms by company or civilian tailors:
>
> | | |
> |---|---|
> | Making uniform coat for private | $2.50 |
> | Making trousers, private | 2.00 |
> | Altering uniform coat for private | 1.75 |
> | Making trousers, NCO | 2.50 |
> | Making an overcoat | 3.50 |
> | Saving stripes, NCO | .75 |
> | Making a blouse | 2.50 |
> | Sewing chevrons | .25 |
> | Altering a blouse | 1.75 |
> | Inserting new overcoat lining | 1.00 |
>
> All practice on bugles at this post shall take place near the beach west of the Life Saving Station.
>
> Soldiers in civilian clothing are not allowed in the gymnasium.

No boys or civilians are allowed in or around government buildings.

Cameras are allowed east of the brick barracks only.[34]

In addition to accounting for the personnel of the garrison, the Post Returns illuminated other aspects of the reservation. The returns for January 1904 indicated the following particulars:

Regular Garrison	**Quartermaster Department**
507 horses	22 army wagons
24 heavy artillery	8 escort wagons
32 mortars	7 spring wagons
18 field artillery	4 ambulances
3 Colt automatic guns	91 horses
4 Gatling guns, 10 barrel	31 mules
4 Driggs rapid fire guns 6 pounder	64 civilians[35]
3 Driggs rapid fire guns 15 pounder	

Back in January 1898, the Presidio of San Francisco's garrison totaled 40 officers and 903 enlisted men. Eight years later, by December 1905, the garrison had increased by 50 percent, to 51 officers and 1,372 enlisted men. In addition, 34 officers and 815 men occupied the Infantry Cantonment on the eastern boundary. These increases resulted in crowded accommodations and, in turn, much improvisation and new construction on the military reservation.

The Establishment

Before the Spanish-American War the Presidio's garrison consisted of a mixture of infantry, artillery, and cavalry units. In 1901 the Army divided the Artillery into Coast and Field units and from then on the number of coast artillery troops at the Presidio increased dramatically — from one company in 1901 to ten companies in 1905. During the same period cavalry troops increased from two to five. While field artillery units remained at three batteries, infantry troops disappeared from the Presidio's roster:

Units

February 1901. 1 coast artillery, 1 field artillery, 2 cavalry, 3 infantry

December 1905. 10 coast artillery, 3 field artillery, 5 cavalry, 1 hospital corps

Above: Barracks 682, constructed in 1902 for a future coast artillery post. An increased number of cavalry troops at that time possibly resulted in their occupying the building. *Erwin Thompson photograph, 1991.*

Below: Pressed metal ceiling and cast iron Corinthian columns in the mess hall of barracks 682. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, June 1990.*

Strength

January 1898. 41 officers, 885 enlisted men

December 1905. 51 officers, 1,372 enlisted men

This huge increase in coast artillery units led to the Army's decision to establish a new and separate artillery post in the western portion of the Presidio reservation. Sometime in 1900 Col. Jacob B. Rawles, the post commander, and Brig. Gen. William Shafter, commanding the Department of California, held a meeting at which they agreed on the location for the erection of four to six barracks for the Coast Artillery. Rawles later wrote that he had not seen correspondence between Shafter and the War Department, whose approval was essential for any new construction, and did not know how many barracks Washington had contemplated building. He wrote that in choosing the site, he and Shafter had kept in mind "harmonius conditions as to surroundings and the character of the ground thereabout." The site proved to be an area west of the national cemetery, in the vicinity of the intersection of today's Park and Lincoln boulevards.[36]

A more enlightening document came from the pen of Maj. Gen. S. B. M. Young, then the president of the Army War College in Washington, D.C. In a discussion of coastal defenses, he wrote that at San Francisco, construction had begun on barracks for the coast artillery troops in the vicinity of the batteries. When those companies moved into their new quarters, infantry troops would occupy the main post at the Presidio for the land defense of the coastal batteries. The War College Board recommended six companies of infantry along with four troops of cavalry for the Presidio.[37]

Construction of a single, two-story, wood-frame barracks began at the end of 1901. At the same time work began on two officers' quarters (one a duplex, the other single) at the east end of the road later known as Kobbe Avenue. The department turned over all three buildings to the Presidio on the last day of 1902. About the same time the quartermaster department constructed a new brick ordnance shop for the coastal batteries near the west end of Kobbe Avenue:

682.	Barracks for one company	$28,720
1302.	Single set, officers' quarters	8,331
1304.	Double set, officers' quarters	15,617
1339.	Ordnance repair shop	1,938[38]

Above: Duplex officers' quarters, 1304, constructed in 1902, Kobbe Avenue, Fort Winfield Scott. This building proved to be a premature adventure at Scott, continued planning and construction being interrupted by the 1906 earthquake. Northeast and northwest elevations. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, June 1989.*

Below: Brick guardhouse, 210, circa 1939-1940. The front porch was removed sometime after 1945. South and east elevations. *Quartermaster Building Record Books, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

The idea of a new post lived on. In 1904 an Advisory Board of Officers recommended that active measures be taken to continue construction of a new artillery post to be separate from the "old" Presidio. It suggested that the time had come to obtain an appropriation from Congress. Maj. Gen. Arthur MacArthur, commanding the department, agreed and so informed the War Department. There the quartermaster general directed MacArthur to start the planning but to wait until the next session of the Congress before asking for an appropriation. In July 1904 Col. Charles Morris, the Presidio's new commander, received instructions to convene a new board of officers to consider a suggested location for the new post. In the fall of 1905 the Department of California learned unofficially that a complete post was to be erected at Fort Point "in the near future."[39]

Returning to 1898, housekeeping at the Presidio brought about numerous developments. Early in January the commander decided that the old quarters at Fort Point occupied by married men should be torn down, having become "wretched." Also, he wanted the engineers to remove the manure at Fort Point they had allowed to accumulate. The engineers replied they already had begun to spread the manure as a top dressing on the earthen slopes of the new batteries. The post surgeon reported that the octagonal tower added to the hospital just the year before leaked through its skylight. The post quartermaster asked for permission to erect eleven additional street lamps at the post and for additional oil for the same.[40]

Ever since the outbreak of hostilities and the increased troop movements at the Presidio, the old wood frame guardhouse had become wholly overtaxed. As one officer wrote, it had not been built on sanitary or reformatory principles. As a result the Presidio acquired a new brick guardhouse (210) in 1899. Erected at the north end of the line of brick barracks, the building cost $14,000. It had six single cells and two cages, each capable of holding 14 men. Plumbing and gas piping added $1,423 to the bill. The cost of installing hot water heating came to $1,620.[41]

On September 10, 1899, fire struck the two-story, wood-frame bachelor officers' quarters, the Corral. Newspapers reported that a defective flue was the probable cause of this fire, the thirteenth in the same building since it was constructed in the Civil War. Although soldiers attacked the fire promptly, the building burned to the ground, leaving 15 officers and seven of their families homeless. No casualties resulted and the people succeeded in removing their household effects safely. The city fire department arrived at the site and saved the adjacent chapel. As the garrison increased in strength in the next few years, the shortage in officers'

Above: Bachelor officers' quarters (BOQ), called "the Corral," built during the Civil War. It was later converted to apartments for officers' families. It was destroyed by fire September 9, 1899. View toward the southwest. *Hofstetter Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Below: New bachelor officers' quarters, 42, built in 1904, and named Pershing Hall. In 1994 the building served as visiting officers' quarters (VOQ). View to the southeast. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, June 1990.*

Post hospital, 2, built in 1864, changed to post dispensary in 1905. Visible are the hipped roof addition to the rear, hospital steward's quarters on the left, and barracks in the background. Circa 1888 view toward the northwest. *Hofstetter Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

quarters caused much concern at the Presidio. Finally, on July 11, 1904, a handsome brick bachelor officers' quarters (Pershing Hall) [42] on the same site as the former building opened its doors.[42]

The post hospital, built during the Civil War, showed its age as the new century dawned. Originally designed for 50 beds, its capacity had been reduced to 25 by 1900. The volunteer camps and the Infantry Cantonment caused great increases in the daily sick call. The Army's surgeon general recommended that when the number of bed patients exceeded the hospital's capacity, the excess men be sent to the nearby U.S. General Hospital. The post surgeon urged the construction of new latrine facilities for the hospital in 1901 because the existing arrangement had become unsatisfactory and unsanitary. By 1902 it became necessary to erect two tents nearby to take care of the daily sick call. Another doctor penned a lengthy letter in 1903 listing the many repairs the hospital required. Floors, stairs, doors, and roof all needed fixing. The entire building, inside and out, could use fresh coats of paint. Post Surg. William Stephenson penned an even longer list a year later. His successor, Capt. C. R. Reynolds, pointed out that the hospital had become incapable of accommodating the increasing number of patients, adding: "As is well known the building is old and unsanitary and its facilities are not only inferior to the General Hospital but also inferior to those of most post hospitals."[43]

Post hospital, early twentieth century, showing the octagonal operating room addition built in 1897. View toward the southwest. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

As 1905 drew to a close, the decision came down to close the wards and to transfer remaining patients to the U.S. General Hospital. The old post hospital continued to handle the daily sick call and to serve as an "emergency hospital."[44]

In 1900 troops reoccupied the two brick barracks that the General Hospital had used since its establishment in 1898. The post quartermaster complained that the keys to the doors and lockers and the window and door screens all were missing. The General Hospital, however, continued to occupy some of the old one-story, wood-frame barracks. By the summer of 1901 the Presidio began to feel the need for these buildings as the command increased in size. Colonel Rawles pointed out to department headquarters that the barracks were post buildings and they were needed. At that point the General Hospital suffered a severe fire that destroyed two wards and other facilities. Rawles remained firm saying that the General Hospital could use tents during its emergency. It was completely independent from the Presidio and the Presidio should have its own buildings back. Because of the overcrowding, the Army put down floors in the attics of the brick buildings making them into squad rooms.

One company commander complained, however, that the attics were cold and damp and required stoves.[45]

The Lower Presidio came more and more into prominence after 1900. Much of the area remained swampy but gradually steps were taken to drain and fill, particularly toward the east. A 10-inch iron pipe extending 40 feet into the bay near the Presidio wharf flushed all excreta from the main post. A small crematory near the bay burned combustible garbage, while such solid wastes as ashes and tin cans were dumped on the flat immediately south of the corral that stood on the bay's edge. Stable refuse also was dumped and dead animals cremated in this area. In 1904 the Presidio laid 900 feet of an 18-inch pipe to drain the one remaining pond in the northeast corner of the reservation, along with surface drainage, into the bay. Previously, soldiers had used the pond for bathing.

In 1900 the Presidio constructed temporary, shed-like stables below the bluffs on the Lower Presidio for horses that were en route to the Philippines. A 1906 map showed 11 of these stables along with a small corral, a veterinary hospital, and other small buildings. A short distance to the east the quartermaster erected a new L-shaped quartermaster stable. Still farther east stood a long "forage storehouse" (said to have been built in 1896 and later a post exchange building, 201). The former lagoon to the north of these stables was shown as "filled in."

"Filled in," however, did not mean dry land. When the four troops of the 9th Cavalry arrived at the Presidio in 1902 they learned that the shed stables would house their horses. They immediately applied for the stables on top of the bluff only to be refused. Dissatisfied, they next requested that saddle rooms, sleeping facilities for the stable sergeant and orderlies, and a blacksmith shop be provided. An inspector general in 1905 described the area as still being boggy and in wet weather the roads around the stables were "often impracticable." He found the stable yards and the picket lines in poor condition. Those stables used by the cavalry needed new wooden floors and partitions between the horses. He also recommended the installation of screens, because the flies were terrible.

Colonel Morris responded to the inspection report saying that the muddy conditions were unfortunate but unavoidable. About 125 loads of crushed rock from Angel Island had already been placed about the stables and the picket lines. When the 2d Squadron of the 4th Cavalry

Post gymnasium, 122, erected in 1904. The circa 1915 photograph labels it the "Army YMCA." *Presidio Museum Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

replaced the 9th Cavalry in 1904, the situation became further complicated. Because of the steady increase in the number of artillerymen at the main post, these new cavalry troopers were forced to occupy temporary quarters on the eastern side of the Infantry Cantonment. This meant a long tramp between the barracks and the stables. Morris pointed out it was not as far as the Coast Artillery had to march daily to reach the guns.[46]

With the erection of the U.S. General Hospital in 1899, mounted troops at the Presidio had to search for a new drill field. The low ground to the north and east of the hospital became the new site, though far from perfect. For one thing an open drain from the hospital directed its waters to the drill ground. Colonel Rawles asked the hospital commander to correct the situation. Then there were times the field dried up and the cavalry and artillery drills raised considerable dust. Apparently some nearby residents complained to Congressman Kahn saying that the army horses were covered with dust from head to toe and that the general lack of drainage lead to much sickness and malaria. Colonel Rawles informed Kahn that he agreed that the flats should be further filled and drained, but that the problems had been overstated. The General Hospital's patients had in no way been injured by the drills.

The mounted troops raised a new concern in 1903. The depot quartermaster in San Francisco had already erected two large storehouses immediately to the east of the Presidio wharf. Now, he proposed to construct two similar buildings adjacent to the first. If built, these would further encroach upon the drill field, especially for the field artillery drill. The quartermaster won and soon two additional storehouses, along with a morgue and other small buildings appeared in the vicinity of the wharf. An inspector general's report in 1905 summed up the drill field's problems. It said that the flat on the waterfront in "front" of the General Hospital was still marshy and boggy in part and should be further drained and filled. It was the only suitable drill ground for preliminary mounted drill, for accurate close order movements, that was reasonably close to both barracks and stables. As for the golf links, while they were excellent for work requiring varied ground, they were not suited for preliminary drill; besides they were far away at the end of a long hill. Slowly, conditions at the Lower Presidio improved.[47]

Toward the end of 1898, Lt. Col. Henry Wagner, commanding the post, noted that no repair work on the Presidio roads had been carried out for a long time. He requested a detachment of general prisoners from Alcatraz Island be sent to begin road repairs. By 1902 the work was well underway. The quarry on Angel Island supplied crushed rock for the road from the Presidio wharf to the main post and the roads in the Infantry Cantonment. Colonel Rawles insisted that the work continue. In 1903 nearly $5,000 were spent on the endeavor. A new road extended from the quartermaster storehouses near the wharf eastward to the city streets in 1904. That year a new entrance to the reservation was completed at the end of Broadway Street. Another new road, later named Park Boulevard, joined what was then called Upper and Lower McDowell (Lincoln Boulevard and Kobbe Avenue). A new stone gateway was erected at the Seventh Avenue entrance at a cost of $1,206 in 1903. The department quartermaster asked if the Presidio had any old guns to display at that place.[48]

Another new building, one most important to the troops, that was erected in 1903, the combination brick gymnasium and post exchange (122) cost no less than $34,436. Its plumbing and wiring cost an additional $2,280, and the gymnastic apparatus and bowling alleys, $2,750. An inspector general visited the building two years later. He was not pleased with what he saw in the bowling alley: walls damaged in vicinity of the pit, dirty alleys, smoke covered ceiling, ball trough broken, and 9 of the 16 bowling balls useless.[49]

Other recreational facilities introduced during these years included a new lawn tennis court in the Infantry Cantonment, near the eastern boundary and opposite the city's Union Street.

The cantonment had to borrow the Presidio's large roller to smooth the surface. In 1903 the Presidio's officer in charge of athletics, Capt. J. W. Hinkley, Jr., recommended the approval of three handball courts being constructed. He noted that interest in that sport was rapidly increasing. The site selected was in the rear of the quartermaster paint shop, then building 103, in the area that became the "new" parade ground in front of the brick barracks. The next year the Presidio had plans prepared for a new bandstand to be located at the "Alameda circle."[50]

Electricity had been creeping into the Presidio from the city as early as 1900. That year the Department of California asked the Presidio to identify who had given permission to the San Francisco Gas and Electric Company to string its wires on government telephone poles on the reservation. It seemed that these electrical wires were interfering with telephone conversations. Colonel Rawles replied that he did not know who gave authority for supplying electricity to the quarters of Col. James Marshall, the division quartermaster (Rawles at that time was trying to get Marshall ousted from the reservation inasmuch as he was not a post officer and had no right to quarters). Nor did he know the authority for electricity at the General Hospital. As for himself, he gave permission for wires to be strung for lighting the officers' club. In any case the electric company would be required to rectify the situation.

While the Corps of Engineers proceeded with the electrification of the coastal defenses, the Presidio debated the virtues of gas versus electricity for the interior and exterior post lighting in 1905. While the post engineer concluded that electricity would be better and that the Presidio could produce its own power at a cost below that of the San Francisco Gas and Electric Company, several years would pass before electrification came to the reservation.[51]

An earlier chapter noted that a branch of the post exchange had been established at the cable car terminus in 1899. Three years later this cigar and refreshment stand became a bone of contention. Each of the two infantry regiments (the 7th and 19th) then at the Depot of Recruit Instruction asked the Department of California for a share in the profits of this branch since their men frequented it as customers. Colonel Rawles objected strenuously saying that his troops were the more frequent customers, the stand was on Presidio land and not in the depot, and it was completely under his jurisdiction. In conclusion, he said, the depot (Infantry Cantonment) could not hold shares in the Presidio exchange because it was a separate command.

Above: Presidio Boulevard entrance gate, circa 1908. This entrance was favored by carriages and pedestrians to and from downtown San Francisco. Lovers Lane led from the main post to this gate. A gatekeeper's house and a sentry box are partially visible to the right. Besides the cannon on posts, the others buried nearby served as fenders against wagon tires from damaging the brickwork. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Below: Presidio Boulevard entrance in 1994. The cannon have been removed and the gateposts are covered with stucco. The Presidio forest embraces the boulevard as early planners envisioned. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, September 1990.*

Maj. Gen. Robert P. Hughes, then commanding the department, thought it unwise to continue the branch exchange because it was causing contention that was not in the best interest of the service. Nevertheless, he gave Rawles another opportunity to state his case. Rawles remained adamant and the stand remained under the Presidio's exchange for a time. When the stand eventually became unprofitable, the Presidio loaned it to the Infantry Cantonment. In 1904 the Presidio commander, Colonel Morris, thought it advisable to discontinue the operation and to remove the building.[52]

During these years several additional Presidio structures underwent either construction or changes; these are listed below.

1902 The post quartermaster reported the construction of two storehouses at a total cost of $21,750. While not positively identified, these two structures probably were the two storehouses built at the Presidio wharf for the depot quartermaster.

1903 The Corps of Engineers razed what was left of its old compound on the bluffs above Fort Point. At the same time it prepared plans for new structures near the Engineer Wharf.

1904 A contractor continued to lay a drain and fill the ravine, probably south of the row of brick barracks. Cost of contract, $17,585.

1904 A new coal shed at and an addition to the Presidio wharf were completed, $5,340.

1905 Estimates were prepared for the construction of a boardwalk on Lovers Lane. The document stated that this path had been built 15 years earlier. About the same time a board of officers concluded that the Central (Presidio) Avenue gate had become important enough to have the Jackson Street cable cars enter the Presidio at that point.

The "Lombard and Union" (Greenwich?) entrances were "assuming more and more a back door aspect."[53]

By the end of 1905 the Presidio of San Francisco, its facilities greatly improved during the past 15 years, stood poised for its evolution into two separate, major installations — a coast artillery post for the defense of San Francisco Bay against hostile fleets, and an infantry post for the land defense of the coastal batteries. A tremendous earthquake a few months later caused a suspension of these schemes.

Chapter 13 Notes:

1. PSF, Post Returns, 1898. Commanders: Col. Evan Miles, 1st Infantry, May 1897–March 1898; Lt. Col. Louis T. Morris, 4th Cavalry, April–June 1898; Brig. Gen. Marcus P. Miller, U.S. Volunteers, July–September 1898; Maj. David H. Kinzie, 3d Artillery, October 1898; and Lt. Col. Henry Wagner, 4th Cavalry, November–December 1898. Camp Miller, eastern Presidio, and later, Battery Marcus Miller at Fort Winfield Scott, were both named for the general.

2. Post adjutant, January 14, 1898; Quartermaster general, January 14, 1898, to commanding officer, PSF, both in Register of Letters Received; Miles, January 27, 1898, to Department of California, Letters Sent, RG 393; PSF, Post Returns 1898, NA.

3. U.S. Department of Defense, *The Armed Forces Officer* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1950), p. 4.

4. A. T. Dean, April 18, 1898, to commanding officer, PSF; Proceedings of the Post Exchange Council, February 22, 189, to Department of California; C. E. Compton, March 19, 1899, to adjutant general, U.S. Army, Letters Sent, PSF, RG 393, NA.

5. Commanding officer, Troop B, 4th Cavalry, May 8, 1898, Register of Letters Received; F. W. Harris, August 4, 1898, to adjutant general, U.S. Army; M. Miller, August 5, 1898, to Department of California; and 2d Indorsement, Headquarters, Infantry Cantonment, January 12, 1905, all in Letters Sent; Special Orders 193, August 23, 1898, RG 393, NA.

6. F. W. Harris, November 29, 1898, to D. T. Sullivan, Register of Letters Received; General Orders 16, November 25, 1898, RG 393, NA.

7. Adjutant general, War Department, December 27, 1898, to Shafter; J. M. Baily, September 11, 1898, to Shafter; H. C. Corbin, October 16, 1899, and March 6, 1901, to Shafter, all in Shafter Papers, Stanford University. Shafter retired to his ranch near Bakersfield, California, where he died in 1906. His remains rest in the San Francisco National Cemetery. Paul H. Carlson, *"Pecos Bill," A Military Biography of William R. Shafter* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1989), pp. 158–159 and 189–193.

8. PSF, Post Returns, March 1899; Fort Winfield Scott, Post Returns, July 1900–April 1901, and correspondence accompanying the same; Adjutant general, War Department, March 25, 1901, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

9. F. Harris, March 18, 1899, to *San Francisco News Letter*; Compton, March 16, 1899, to E. H. Plummer; Surgeon, Camp of Volunteers, November 20, 1899, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received; General Orders 5, April 15, 1899, RG 393, NA. A German army officer found himself under arrest in 1900 for photographing the coastal batteries. The Army confiscated his film and released him.

10. Special Orders 16, January 16, 1900; General Orders 16, May 21, 1900; Post adjutant, May 10, 1900, to commanding officer, Troop F, 6th Cavalry.

11. W. S. McNair, May 21, 1900, to post adjutant, Register of Letters Received; J. B. Rawles, May 25, 1900, to adjutant general, U.S. Army, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA.

12. Rawles, September 27, 1900, to Department of California, Register of Letters Received, and September 29, 1900, to J. M. Marshall, Letters Sent; RG 393, NA.

13. Rawles, May 4, 1900, to adjutant general, U.S. Army, and May 11, 1900, to Shafter, Letters Sent; Adjutant general, U.S. Army, June 26, 1900, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

14. PSF, Post Returns 1901–1905. Before 1901 the Artillery was a single combat arm. In the army-wide reorganization that year a new Corps of Artillery was created. Within it the coast artillery and the field artillery were partially separated. The 120 companies of Coast Artillery and the 30 batteries of Field Artillery were now identified by numbers rather than letters, e.g., 1st Company, Coast Artillery; 1st Battery, Field Artillery; and the regimental system was abolished. In 1907 the Army completely separated coast and field artillery into distinct branches and organized the Coast Artillery troops into the Coast Artillery Corps (CAC). The Field Artillery reintroduced letters for identification. *The Army Almanac*, p. 12.

15. A. J. Pedlar, January 23, 1901; T. Trippe, March 17, 1901; and post chaplain, May 10, 1901, all to commanding officer, PSF; Rawles, February 4, 1901, to Department of California, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

16. Adjutant general, Department of California, May 13 and 15, 1901, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received; General Orders 2, September 16, 1901, RG 393, NA.

17. PSF, Revocable Licenses, File R-2, Master Plans, DEH, PSF.

18. Commanding officer, 28th Company, April 26, 1902, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received; R. R. Henriche, February 17, 1901, and adjutant general, U.S. Army, February 7, 1902, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

19. Rawles, February 19 and March 8, 1902, to Department of California, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA. A new rifle range was constructed southeast of the main post, roughly where the Athletic Field now stands. The 1,000-foot range went by the name "Protected Rifle Range." This was at least the third small arms range at the Presidio. Around 1880 target butts stood near the bay in the northeast corner of the reservation. Occasionally stray bullets landed at the nearby Harbor View resort.

20. Rawles, March 9 and October 27, 1902, to Kahn, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA. Julius Kahn, born in Germany in 1861 of Jewish parents, migrated to the United States in 1865. He settled in San Francisco where he took up acting and married Florence Prag in 1899. He next studied law and was elected to the California state assembly for one term in 1892. In 1898 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. He lost the 1902 election but again took the office in 1904. He remained in the U.S. Congress until his death in 1924. Alan Boxerman, "Kahn of California," *California Historical Quarterly*, 55:340.

21. Rawles, March 18, 1902, to commanding officer, 28th Infantry; A. Todd, November 13, 1902, to commanding officer, 3d Squadron, 9th Cavalry; F. R. Orella, April 10, 1902, to commanding officer, PSF; Post surgeon, June 18, 1902, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received; Rawles, March 23, 1902, to adjutant general, U.S. Army, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA.

22. H. S. Kilbourne, September 30, 1902, to commanding officer, PSF; W. Stephenson, June 2, 1904, to adjutant, Letters and Endorsements, Medical Department, 1902–1906, RG 393, NA.

23. Rawles, March 26, 1902, to adjutant general, U.S. Army, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA.

24. PSF, Post Returns, 1902.

25. Post adjutant, September 16, 1903, to J. Osborne; Morris, December 5, 1903, to F. A. Hyde, Letters Sent; General Orders 18, March 5, 1904, RG 393, NA.

26. G. T. Grimes, April 27, 1903, to Department of California, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA. Hart also became superintendent of the post schools for enlisted men and children.

27. Rawles, February 25, 1903, to Department of California, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA; Quartermaster Corps (QMC) Form 117, Building Records, PSF.

28. The Naval Memorial Monument, also known as the Dewey Monument, commemorates Adm. George Dewey's complete destruction of the Spanish fleet at Manila, the Philippine Islands, in 1898. G. Andrews, Memorandum, May 6, 1903, RG 393; Post Returns May 1903, NA. The garrison consisted of headquarters staff, 3d Band, 6 companies of Coast Artillery, 3 batteries of Field Artillery, 4 troops of 9th Cavalry, and 2 companies of Coast Artillery casually at the post — 33 officers and 1,192 enlisted men.

29. Morris, May 20, 1904, to P. W. Went; Post adjutant, June 28, 1904, Memorandum, Letters Sent, RG 393, Post Returns 1904, NA. Strangely, the Post Returns placed Santo Domingo in Haiti.

30. PSF, Post Returns, 1904–1905. MacArthur returned to San Francisco in October 1930 on a brief assignment with the headquarters of the Ninth Corps Area at the Presidio and again in 1951 following his relief as Supreme Commander of United Nations Forces in Korea, "Our welcome home was tumultuous. It seemed to me that every man, woman, and child in San Francisco turned out to cheer us." Douglas MacArthur, *Reminiscences* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1964), pp. 28, 30, 89, and 400.

31. PSF Special Orders 194, August 15, 1905; Morris, July 18, 1905, to Department of California, Letters Sent, and May 1904 to the Department, Register of Letters Received; H. Kilbourne, February 10, 1903, to commanding officer, PSF, Letters and Endorsements, Medical Department, RG 393, NA.

32. The location of the new athletic field has not been determined. C. Morris, March 12, 1904, Register of Letters Received, and August 12, 1904, August 2 and October 9, 1905, to Department of California, and July 25, 1905, to C. T. Abbott, Letters Sent; Commanding officer, 70th Company, CA, November 8, 1905, to commanding officer, PSF, and post quartermaster, August 2, 1905, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received; Captain Burgess, May 23, 1905, to J. E. Rogers, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA.

33. Morris, August 23, 1904, to Mrs. Miller, and June 26, 1905, to Chief of Police, Letters Sent; Morris, April 21, 1905, to Department of California, Register of Letters Sent; R. Patterson, November 27, 1905, to Coroner, SF, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA.

34. Post Orders in General Orders 1904–1905, RG 393, NA. The above excerpts have been paraphrased.

35. Post Returns, January 1904. A year later, in March, the post returns noted the presence of a battalion of Philippine scouts en route from inland U.S. to the Philippines. They remained at the Presidio for two days, March 29–31, 1905.

36 Rawles, November 17, 1902, to Department of California, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

37. S. B. M. Young, May 1903, to adjutant general, USA, General Correspondence 1890–1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

38. Chief quartermaster, Department of California, January 14, 1903, to commanding officer, PSF; S. Pratt, March 23, 1904, Inspection Report, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA. In an earlier study I mistakenly wrote that this barracks had been built for the Presidio's cavalry troops. In 1902, however, the Presidio's complement of cavalry doubled from two to four troops. At the end of the year the garrison consisted of five companies of coast artillery, four batteries of field artillery, and four troops of cavalry (Third Squadron, 9th Cavalry). While the new barracks was built to accommodate future growth in coast artillery, it would seem that for the time being the five brick (double) barracks were sufficient for the coast artillery, while the eight units of cavalry and field artillery competed for space. It is possible that one troop of the 9th Cavalry occupied the new barracks. It is known that the squadron was housed at the main post and not at the Infantry Cantonment, as was its successor, the 4th Cavalry.

39. Morris, January 24, 1904, to Department of California, and accompanying correspondence; Chief quartermaster, Department of California, September 23, 1905, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

40. E. Miles, January 7, 1898; C. R. Suter, January 27, 1898; Post quartermaster, March 16, 1898; Post Surgeon, February 24, 1898, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

41. B. Moseley, November 18, 1898, to commanding officer, PSF; Rawles, June 4, 1900, to Department of California, Register of Letters Received, RG 393; PSF Summary Sheets of Contracts 1899, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

42. *San Francisco Chronicle*, September 10, 1899; Rawles, April 15, 1902, to adjutant general, U.S. Army; Chief quartermaster, Department of California, July 11, 1904, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA. Known generically as Pershing Hall, 42, the three wings of the building were named Pershing Hall (General of the Armies John J. Pershing, commanded an infantry brigade at the Presidio), Keyes Hall (Capt. Erasmus D. Keyes, early regular army commander of the Presidio), and Hardie Hall (Maj. James A. Hardie, first American commander of the Presidio.) The bachelor officers' quarters (BOQ) currently serves as a Visiting (Senior) Officers' Quarters (VOQ).

43. W. A. Forwood, April 18, 1900, to Department of California, Letters Sent; Lt. Col. ___, March 11, 1903, to adjutant general, U.S. Army; and W. Stephenson, March 30, 1904, both in Letters and Endorsements Sent, Medical Department; Post surgeon, February 13 and June 17, 1901, to commanding officer, PSF; and W. R. Reynolds, October 19, 1904, to commanding officer, PSF, both in Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

44. W. Stephenson, October 16, 1905, to commanding officer, PSF; Letters and Endorsements, Medical Department; Morris, June 30, 1906, to Department of California, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA.

45. Rawles, July 14, 1901, to Department of California, Letters Sent; A. W. Kimball, July 19, 1900, to commanding officer, PSF; Commanding officer, 92d Coast Artillery, June 21, 1901, to commanding officer, PSF; and adjutant general, Department of California, April 21, 1902, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

46. Commanding officer, 3d Squadron, 9th Cavalry, October 28, 1902, and January 24, 1903, to commanding officer, PSF; Morris, May 8, 1905, to Pacific Division, Register of Letters Received; Morris, September 30, 1904, to Department of California; Captain Burgess, May 15, 1905, to post quartermaster, Letters Sent; Post surgeon, ca. June 1904, Letters and Endorsements, Medical Department, RG 393, NA. Besides the cavalry and the quartermaster, an artillery battery and a company from the Hospital Corps had stables on the Lower Presidio.

47. Commanding officer, 5th Battery, Field Artillery, August 12, 1902, to commanding officer, PSF; Register of Letters Received; Rawles, March 25, 1902, to Department of California; G. T. Grimes, April 27, 1903, to Department of California; Captain Burgess, May 15, 1905, to post quartermaster, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA; Map, "The Presidio of San Francisco," 1906, RG 77, NA. As late as 1909 Congressman Kahn drew attention to citizens' complaints about the "terrible" dust, this time from the adjacent resort run by the Rudolph Herman Company.

48. Wagner, November 17, 1898; Rawles, September 18, 1902; Morris, June 30 and November 2, 1903, and June 30, 1904; all to Department of California, Letters Sent; Post quartermaster, October 21, 1902, to commanding officer, PSF; Chief quartermaster, Department of California, January 21, 1903, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

49. PSF, Summary Sheets of Contracts, 1903–1904, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA; Captain Burgess, May 23, 1905, Report of Inspection, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA.

50. E. S. Wallon, December 5, 1902, to commanding officer, PSF; J. W. Hinkley, August 4, 1903, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received; Captain Burgess, May 23, 1904, to post quartermaster, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA.

51. Signal officer, Department of California, November 14, 1900, to Rawles; Rawles, November 19, 1900, to Department of California; W. C. Davis, June 2, 1905, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

52. Commanding officer, 19th Infantry, November 18, and commanding officer, 7th Infantry, November 20, 1902, to Department of California; Rawles, November 28 and December 28, 1902, to Department of California; J. R. Williams, December 20, 1902, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received; Morris, July 12, 1904, to commanding officer, Infantry Cantonment, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA.

53. Bearss, *Fort Point*, p. 325; T. H. Handbury, March 4, 1902, to C. E. Gillespie; PSF, Estimates for a boardwalk, General Correspondence 1890–1914 and 1894–1923, OCE, RG 77; Summary Sheets of Contracts 1903–1904, CCF, OQMG, RG 92; Morris, June 30, 1904, to Department of California, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA. The Jackson Street cable cars never did enter the Presidio. There was no entrance at Union Street; this may be a reference to an entrance at Greenwich Street.

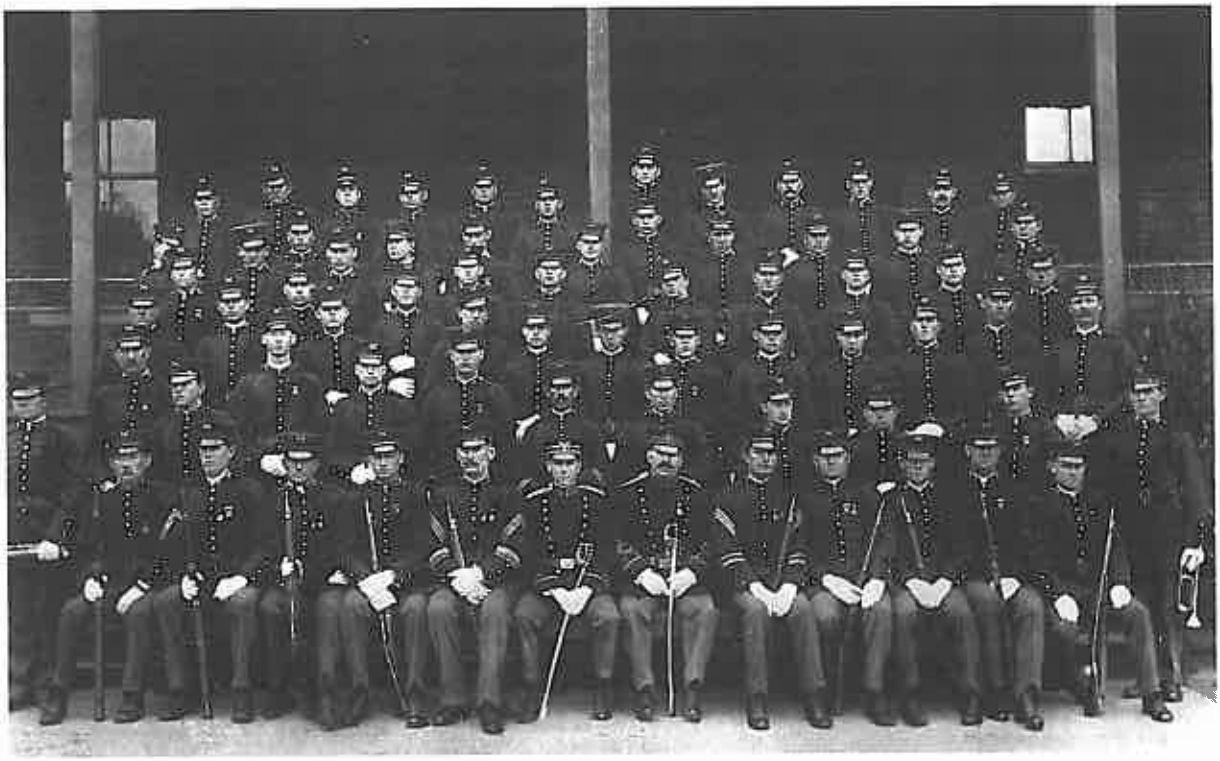
Chapter 14. 1906 Earthquake

Early in 1904 the City of San Francisco asked the U.S. Army if the city could depend on the military for the use of explosives in removing buildings and structures in the event of a conflagration. Maj. Gen. Arthur MacArthur responded by directing the Presidio of San Francisco to prepare a memorandum listing the material necessary to cooperate effectively.[1] Two years later, in 1906, no hint of pending disaster entered the minds of the Presidio garrison. The complement then consisted of units from the infantry, cavalry, field artillery, coast artillery, and the hospital corps. On the last day of March the post return stated that the Presidio's strength stood at 52 officers and 1,499 enlisted men.[2]

The barracks at East and West cantonments remained crowded at least some of the time as reinforcements for the Pacific passed through. This condition became apparent in 1906 when the post surgeon recommended that the double bunks (one bunk above the other) be eliminated due to injuries caused by men falling out of the upper bunks. The post quartermaster replied that it was only by the use of the double bunks that a company could be housed in one of the small, wood-frame barracks buildings. He further argued that single bunks would reduce the accommodations by half even though it was necessary to retain all the West Cantonment and as much of the East Cantonment as possible for casuals.[3]

As spring came to the Presidio's hills and vales, the post headquarters continued to prescribe the proper military life. Soldiers learned that they could not appear on barracks porches in shirt sleeves or coats unbuttoned. One woman was allowed to visit her husband-prisoner for 10 minutes one Sunday; other wives were denied this opportunity a few weeks later. A crisis on officers' row occurred when a surgeon poisoned the Irish setter puppy of his lieutenant neighbor because dogs had been killing his chickens. A Board of Officers met to investigate the incident. The proceedings called for headquarters issuing two letters, one to the lieutenant for allowing his dog to leave his premises, and one to the surgeon for his unwarranted action — he should have reported the problem to the post commander.[4]

Higher-ranking officers attended a magnificent dinner that spring at the Palace Hotel in honor of Maj. Gen. Samuel S. Sumner who was acting as division commander in the absence of Maj. Gen. Arthur MacArthur:



A company of the recently established Coast Artillery on the steps of a Montgomery Street brick barracks about 1905. When the U.S. Army changed uniform styles in 1902, it still had many of the 1897-pattern "Basque" blouses in quartermaster stores. They were trimmed in red and issued to Coast Artillery troops. Instead of wearing the spike-topped helmet, the troops wore the new regulation cap. The noncommissioned officers continued to wear the 1885-pattern gold chevrons edged in red. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

> The dinner was not too heavy: blue points [oysters], a clear green turtle soup, pompano cooked in paper wrappers, sweetbreads served under glass, mallard duck, alligator pears for salad, an ice and coffee. Cucumbers were served with fish and celery with the soup. Delicious gibson appetizers [martinis] were brought to the drawing room before we went down and during dinner White Rock, Rhine wine, champagne and cordials in due course; cigarettes and cigars coming on with the coffee.[5]

Before dawn, Wednesday, April 18, 1906, Capt. Meriwether Lewis Walker, an engineer officer and the commanding officer of the Presidio's neighbor Fort Mason, was awakened by the shaking of his bed:

> At about 5:10 A.M I was awakened by terrific shaking of the house and rushed out. Upon inspection the damage to my quarters seemed very slight and I concluded that it was not a really severe shock and returned to my bed and fell sleep.

> About 6:45...I was awakened by a call at my door and found a civilian who said General Funston...ordered that I bring all available men to the Hall of Justice at once and report to the Mayor [Eugene E. Schmitz] for duty, as the City was all in flames.[6]

Thus occurred the great San Francisco Earthquake of 1906.

At that time General MacArthur still roamed Asia on his military survey. General Sumner had retired in February. Maj. Gen. Adolphus W. Greely had assumed temporary command of the Pacific Division in March and had just left San Francisco on a visit to the east coast. Brig. Gen. Frederick Funston, commanding the Department of California and now the senior army officer in the Bay Area, took charge of the mounting disaster.[7]

As soon as the first shock came, Funston left his private residence at 1310 Washington Street and walked to Nob Hill. From there he saw fires starting in the business district (the city's water mains had been broken). By the time he reached California and Sansome streets he had decided to order out troops to guard federal buildings and to assist the police and fire departments. Reaching the quartermaster stables on Pine Street, he sent messages to Captain Walker at Fort Mason and Col. Charles Morris commanding the Presidio to turn out their troops. Funston returned to his residence and instructed his family to flee (the residence burned) and then proceeded to his offices in the Phelan Building at Market and O'Farrell streets.[8]

Fort Mason's Engineers (5 officers and 150 men) moved out at 7:15 A.M. and marched to the Hall of Justice to report to Mayor Schmitz. They took up posts along Market Street, two men to a block, with instructions to shoot looters. They also guarded in the vicinity of the City Hall and its $7 million of city funds. Troops from the Presidio arrived in the downtown area shortly after, their task being to force citizens to keep two blocks back from the spreading fires. Other soldiers assisted clerks in removing army records from the Phelan Building; wagons carried them to the safety of Fort Mason. But when a second, severe shock struck at 8 A.M., Funston ordered this rescue to halt. (The records of the Quartermaster and Engineer departments were lost to the fires.) Troops from Angel Island (infantry) and Fort Miley (coast artillery) came to the downtown area about 10 A.M. and took up guard duty at the Sub-Treasury of the U.S. Mint, and maintained firelines. Artillery, rather ineptly, dynamited strategic structures in an effort to control the fires. During this endeavor a premature explosion fatally wounded Lt. Charles Pulis, 24th Battery, Field Artillery.

Above: San Francisco city hall after the April 1906 earthquake. Troops from Bay Area posts guarded public buildings in the aftermath. In 1944, archeologists uncovered and studied foundations of this building during construction of a new public library on the site. *General Greely Album, National Archives.*

Below: San Francisco's Telegraph Hill following the 1906 earthquake. The burned-out white building on the upper left is the recently-built Fairmont Hotel. It would be rebuilt within the same shell. *General Greely Album, National Archives.*

Col. Charles Morris from the Presidio became commander of all army units. The first general order he issued directed the destruction of all hard liquor in the stores and shops. Toward evening on April 18 many of the regular troops pulled back to patrol the area west of Van Ness Avenue where vast throngs had gathered to escape the fires. By the morning of April 19, 4 square miles of the city were on fire and both the Grant and Phelan buildings had been destroyed. Funston established a temporary headquarters in General Greely's quarters at Fort Mason.[9]

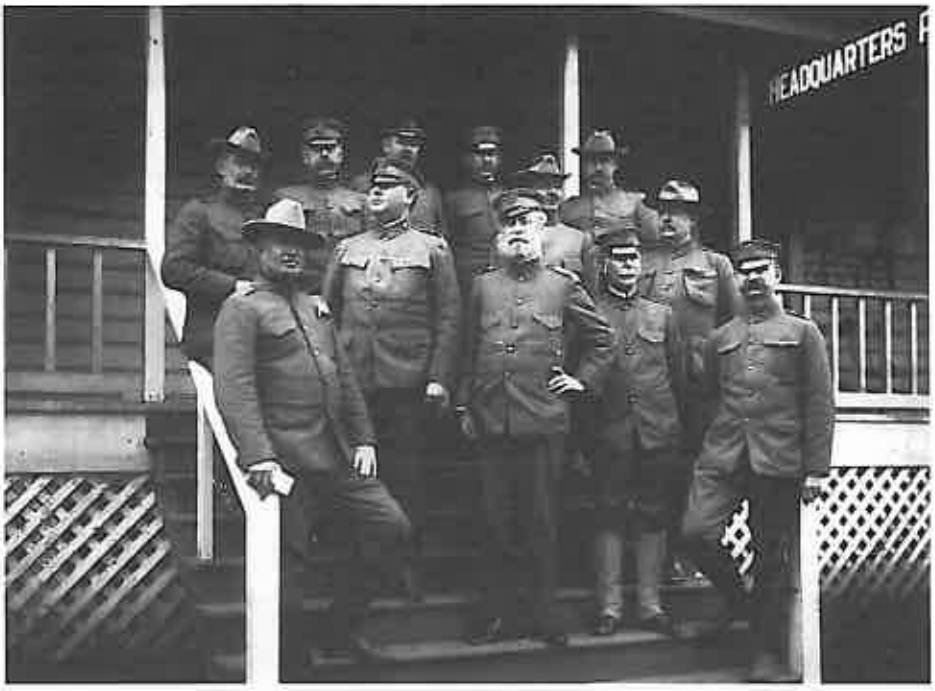
At some point during Wednesday the San Francisco Depot Quartermaster, Maj. Carroll A. Devol,[10] sent a telegram to the War Department: "Terrible earthquake at 5:15 this morning buildings on fire all over lower part of city no water Mission street quartermaster and commissary depots burned to the ground office building and store house 36 New Montgomery st. now on fire small hope of saving no fire at dock pulled [army transport] Buford out in stream saved most of records and sent to Presidio." Washington responded immediately. The quartermaster general dispatched 43 telegrams on April 19 to army headquarters and supply depots throughout the nation — New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Philadelphia, Seattle, Tacoma, Denver, and elsewhere. Immediately trains loaded with supplies headed toward the Bay Area: blankets, tents, stoves, stovepipe, bedsacks, tent pins, urinals, typewriters, office supplies, and cots. Only one incident has been noted where an army organization failed to act promptly. Washington asked the Department of Colorado at Denver to explain why it took nearby Fort Logan 40 hours to prepare canvas for shipment to California. In addition to supplies, the War Department ordered a number of battalions of infantry and cavalry at western forts to hold themselves in readiness for temporary duty at San Francisco.

The Red Cross, cities, and citizen groups throughout the United States also contributed to the relief. Foreign countries also forwarded funds. Japan alone contributed $246,000.[11]

A week later General Greely, who had returned to San Francisco on April 23, wrote that enormous quantities of supplies had arrived, causing congestion. Even army transports *Crook*, *Warren*, and *Buford* had been pressed into service as temporary storehouses. On May 4 Devol reported that he had unloaded and distributed relief supplies from 860 railroad cars and 19 steamers. He had spent $30,000, had current expenses of $2,500 a day, and was quickly running out of funds. A day later he announced that more than enough supplies had arrived in the Bay Area.

Above: Brig. Gen. Frederick Funston (third from left, front) and his staff at a temporary headquarters in Tennessee Hollow at the Presidio's West Cantonment following the 1906 earthquake. At the time of the disaster, General Greely being absent, General Funston, commanding the Department of California, took over and coordinated relief efforts with city and state officials. *General Greely Album, National Archives.*

Below: Temporary headquarters established by the Department of California at West Cantonment. The building appears to have been bachelor officers' or noncommissioned officers' apartments. *General Greely Album, National Archives.*



Above: Maj. Gen. Adolphus W. Greely (white beard), commanding the Pacific Division, was absent from the city at the time of the 1906 earthquake. When he returned, he and his staff established a temporary headquarters in the Presidio's East Cantonment near the Lombard Street gate. *General Greely Album, National Archives.*

Below: Temporary headquarters, Pacific Division. The building appears to be a barracks erected following the Spanish-American War for subsequent troop movements to the Philippines. Note the cable car tracks in the foreground. The earthquake had so badly damaged the cable car tracks east of the Presidio, that the Presidio and Ferries Railroad rebuilt the line as an electric streetcar line, following the same route as the cable cars within the Presidio. *General Greely Album, National Archives.*

Later, Devol prepared long lists of all supplies issued to the sufferers, the destitute, and the Relief Committees — thousands of tents, tent flies, more than 3 1/2 million tent pins, mattresses, bedsacks, blankets, cots, cooking utensils, buckets, ranges, clothing, shoes, even wheelbarrows. Estimates of the monetary value amounted to more than $1.6 million.[12]

On April 21 the Army reported that the San Francisco conflagration seemed to be under control. Additional troops had arrived in the city — from Alcatraz and Fort Baker on April 19, Presidio of Monterey on April 21, Vancouver Barracks on April 22. After he resumed command, General Greely wrote that the disaster had brought under his control the largest force — army, marine, and navy — that had ever worked together in peacetime.[13]

Greely first maintained the temporary headquarters at Fort Mason that Funston had established. On May 2 Funston moved his department headquarters to Tennessee Hollow, the Presidio's West Cantonment. A day later Greely moved his division headquarters to East Cantonment.[14]

On April 23 Greely held a meeting at Fort Mason with Mayor Schmitz, General Funston, and city officials. Schmitz told Greely that he would ask California's Governor George C. Pardee to remove the state's National Guard from the city at once, it having come under a cloud for lacking discipline. Greely assured the mayor that the U.S. Army would not intervene in the relations between the municipal and state authorities but that he would do anything necessary to safeguard the city. About the same time Greely assumed command of the Army's relief operations and he assigned Funston back to managing the operations of the Department of California. (Some critics felt that Greely took exception to some of Funston's decisions, such as his imposition of harsh directives.)[15]

At a second Fort Mason meeting on April 26, attended by the Citizens Committee of Fifty and Governor Pardee, the governor defended the actions of the National Guard who remained in the city for the time being. General Greely announced that the Army had taken full control of the relief stations for the distribution of food. The next day the War Department authorized the presence of U.S. Army troops in the city; finally, the soldiers were there officially. By then more than 200,000 of the city of 400,000 people required food and shelter.[16]

The Army organized the San Francisco area into six military districts, each with its own headquarters. Of these, No. 1 was at the Presidio; No. 2 organized at Golden Gate Park; and Fort

Presidio earthquake refugee camps, 1906. *NPS drawing no. 641-20492.*

A camp established for refugees from the great San Francisco earthquake, April 1906. The location is not identified. *General Greely Album, National Archives.*

Mason became the site of No. 3. It also established a system of camps for the refugees as soon as possible. Camp 15 at Fort Mason occupied the southwest portion of that reservation. Diagonally across from it, to the southwest, stood Camp 9 on Lobos Square. Four tent camps holding at least 16,000 people were erected on the Presidio: near the U.S. General Hospital, in the Cantonment area, on the southern boundary adjacent to the golf links, and on the future site of the Fort Winfield Scott's parade ground (Chinese refugees occupied this camp). To administer these camps, all of Fort Mason's troops and a good part of the Presidio's withdrew from the city where other troop units replaced them.[17]

A great and enduring controversy arising from the disaster concerned the shooting of looters by soldiers. In a recently published book about the earthquake, the author wrote: "The troops were more effective in dealing with looting. By early afternoon — again acting on orders issued solely by Brigadier General Funston — about a dozen looters in various parts of the city were summarily executed without trial." Again, "the city's newspapers reported later, the soldiers had bagged up to one hundred citizens of San Francisco."[18]

One of four refugee camps established on the Presidio of San Francisco military reservation following the 1906 earthquake. *General Greely Album, National Archives.*

General Funston wrote in 1906:

> There was no necessity for the regular troops to shoot anybody and there is no well-authorized case of a single person having been killed by regular troops.
>
> Two men were killed by the state troops under circumstances with which I am not familiar...and one prominent citizen was ruthlessly slain by self-constituted vigilantes.
>
> If there is any lesson to be derived from the work of the regular troops in San Francisco, it is that nothing can take the place of training and discipline, and that self-control and patience are as important as courage.[19]

General Greely reported that nine men had been violently killed:

> two killed by the California National Guard
> one shot by the so-called citizens' vigilance committee
> one shot by a police officer for looting
> one shot by a special police officer and a Marine
> four shot by unknown parties, these occurring at places not occupied by regular troops.

View of the adobe duplex officers' quarters on the west side of the old parade ground damaged by the 1906 earthquake. Dating from Spanish-Mexican times, the structure was originally a long adobe building. The Army remodeled the building into this duplex and a single set of officers' quarters. Both damaged buildings were demolished. *National Archives photograph.*

Later, Greely recorded that a total of 500 citizens had died in the earthquake.[20]

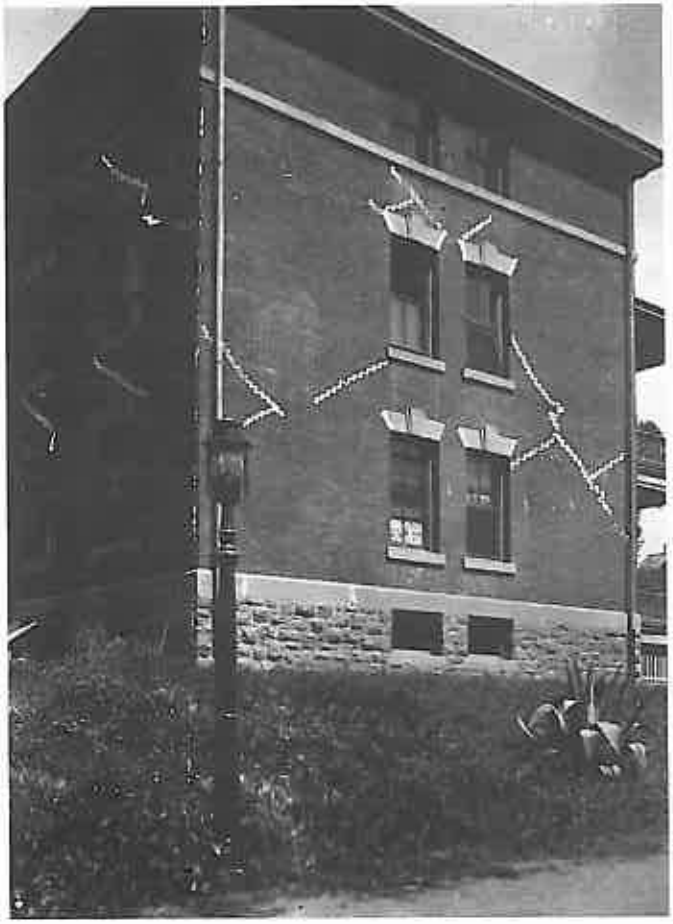
In *San Francisco Horror,* written in 1906, the authors, who had the utmost admiration for Funston and his soldiers, wrote openly about soldiers shooting civilians: "The War Department had been morally responsible for the unhesitating way in which the troops shot down looters and the people who refused to understand that great situations must be controlled without regard to law."[21]

As the troops returned to their quarters, their officers prepared reports on the occupations. Captain Walker wrote of his Fort Mason Engineers, "I cannot speak too highly of the conduct of the Officers and men under me during this trying period. Everyone has worked day and night, not a shirker or grumbler in the crowd, and none have spared themselves. A list of men deserving special commendation would be almost a duplication of our rolls." While the commander of 9th Battery, Field Artillery, reported that no special cases of bravery by his men had come to his notice, another Presidio company officer submitted the names of two artillerymen, Cpl. John E. McSweeny and Pvt. James B. Tuck, for outstanding work in demolishing dangerous walls in the city.[22]

View of the opposite end of the adobe officers' quarters on the old parade ground after the 1906 earthquake. *National Archives photograph.*

As late as early August some Presidio soldiers continued to stand guard at the Sub-Treasury building and the ruins of the Depot Quartermaster's storehouse in the city. Colonel Morris requested their return to the Presidio where they were much needed; guards from other posts could replace them.

The Presidio of San Francisco, while lending its manpower and experience to the City of San Francisco during its terrible ordeal, took the time to evaluate the effects of the earthquake upon its own facilities. On the whole, the reservation escaped with relatively little damage. Colonel Morris's report at the end of the fiscal year, June 30, recorded that the two adobe officers' quarters (the duplex, 16-1 and 2—no longer extant) and its neighbor (the single set, 21—no longer extant) had been wrecked along with the new Corral (bachelor officers' quarters) then numbered 139 [42], that contained 16 sets of quarters for single officers. The five double sets of brick barracks [101–105] were "extensively" damaged and clearly demonstrated the inadvisability of brick construction (adopted at the Presidio less than 20 years earlier). Morris recommended that when carrying out future plastering, wire, not wooden lathing, be used. The brick gymnasium-post exchange building [122] also suffered severe damage. On the whole, the older wood-frame buildings withstood the earthquake. A board of officers exam-



1906 earthquake damage to the east end of the brick bachelor officers' quarters, later Pershing Hall, 42. View to the west. Cracks in the walls were highlighted by marking them on the negative with black ink. *National Archives photograph.*

ined the two adobe quarters and concluded they were too dangerous for occupancy and recommended they be condemned and torn down.

The *Baltimore Sun* newspaper published an alarming article in April saying that the big coastal guns at San Francisco had been cracked and twisted by the earthquake. Also, their massive concrete emplacements had been damaged and the Presidio's armament, "the main defense," had become practically useless. When the Army actually evaluated the damage to the coastal batteries, it concluded they had survived the earthquake virtually unscathed. The total cost to repair the damage amounted to $1,983. An engineer officer, Maj. C. H. McKinstry, in a battery-by-battery report of inspection, wrote, "Lest the report that Battery Chamberlin was `wrecked' has reached the Department...it should be said that the battery was practically uninjured, except that a surface drain...cracked."

Earthquake damage to the brick gymnasium-post exchange building, 122. View is toward the southwest showing the east and north elevations. *National Archives photograph.*

The old masonry fort at Fort Point suffered a little more damage. The troops of the 66th Company, Coast Artillery, then occupying the fort fled promptly when the earthquake struck, most without their trousers. The damage to the structure, however, was not severe. The bridge from the bluff to the top of the fort had fallen down. The 6-foot-thick brick south (landward) wall of the fort had moved outward from the structure about 8 inches. While the Lighthouse Board promptly repaired the wooden bridge, the Army did nothing about the wall, preferring to spend its funds on the modern fortifications. In 1913, on the eve of the Panama-Pacific Exposition, the Army finally expended about $2,000 in repairing the wall and in generally cleaning up the area. Other damage to buildings on the Presidio reservation included repairing chimneys, plastered walls, some underpinning, roof gutters, and windows. The total estimate for repairs came to $127,320.[23]

When Colonel Morris prepared his annual report for 1906, he discussed the earthquake damage at the Presidio and his troops' contributions to the wrecked city. He continued the report by discussing the constant lack of adequate barracks at the Presidio. He said there were accommodations for either the four cavalry troops or the three field artillery batteries, but not

Above: Temporary telegraph office set up at the Presidio following the 1906 earthquake. The building appears to be one in either the East or West Cantonments in the eastern Presidio. *General Greely Album, National Archives.*

Below: A group of soldiers of Company K, 22d Infantry who saved the "Flag" house during the great earthquake and fire of April 18-20, 1906. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

both. To him, the cavalry was the more important. In addition to its national park duties, it was at hand in the event of unusual contingencies occurring in the city. Also, cavalry patrols on the large reservation remained essential. He recommended that the field artillery be transferred.[24]

Another complaint expressed by the colonel concerned the rapid turnover of the coast artillery company commanders. He believed the constant rotation was disastrous to efficiency. Since January 1901 the average length of time these captains served was only one year and four months before transferring. Other concerns that Morris broached were the need for a larger chapel, new YMCA building, bunkhouse for civilian teamsters, and completion of the boundary wall and an iron railing on top to keep out intruders.[25]

The Presidio acquired a new school on April 1, 1906, that promised to be of great benefit to the Pacific Division — the Training School of Bakers and Cooks. During the Spanish-American War, much of the sickness among the ranks was attributed to the lack of trained cooks. In 1905 the War Department established the first school for bakers and cooks at Fort Riley, Kansas. Now, in addition to the Presidio, schools became a reality at Washington Barracks, D.C., and Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Colonel Morris urged that a barracks be erected for the students; for the 68 men were camping on the lower parade ground in tents. Meanwhile, he considered moving the hospital company out of the brick barracks and relocating it to one of the cantonments. The cook-students could then move into the brick barracks where they would be close to their classes — in the bakeries and various kitchens. The post commissary, Capt. H. T. Ferguson, further described the school. He said that it was divided into four squads of 10 men each. Four of the best cooks in the Department of California served as instructors. Classes lasted four months and the school was to graduate 120 cooks annually.[26]

Another Presidio course of instruction of importance at this time was the School for Noncommissioned Officers. Following an inspection of the school in 1906, Morris outlined the curriculum:

School for Noncommissioned Officers

1. a. Drill Regulations, lessons assigned and recitations held.
   b. Army Regulations, paragraphs relating to enlisted men explained.

c. Minor Tactics, lectures and explanation of textbook.
d. Special Subjects both practical and theoretical, reading and explaining.

2. Infantry. Drill Regulations. Rudiments of Infantry Fire. Hasty Intrenchments.
Cavalry. Drill Regulations, horses, saddles, and bridles. Outpost work. Stable management of refactory animals. Road sketching and map reading.
Field Artillery. Drill regulations. Handbook for the 3" breech† loading rifle, horse shoeing.
Coast Artillery. Infantry drill regulations. Provisional drill. Gunner's handbook.[27]

As with other years, the Presidio's history in 1906 recorded the usual and the unusual. In July the funeral of the late Brig. Gen. Louis H. Rucker took place in the post chapel. He had joined the Army as a private at the outbreak of the Civil War. He spent his career in the cavalry, retiring in 1903. A new order issued in June warned the wives of enlisted men that if they did laundry for officers' families, they must charge less than commercial laundries in the city. Enlisted men read that tattoos on any part of the body were forbidden — they were injurious to health and a sign of degeneracy. The discovery of a human arm wrapped in a woman's skirt near the General Hospital caused only a little alarm. It appeared to be the results of a dissection by medical students. In December a severe windstorm hit the San Francisco headlands, blowing over a barracks at Fort Miley, and damaging slate roofs, windows, and fences at the Presidio to the tune of $2,350.[28]

Brig. Gen. and Mrs. John J. Pershing arrived at San Francisco in October 1906 to take temporary command of the Department of California from General Funston. Pershing most recently had been a military attaché in Tokyo and an observer in the Russo-Japanese War. A month before, President Theodore Roosevelt had promoted Pershing from captain to brigadier general, over the heads of 862 senior officers. On November 3 *The San Francisco Call* reported that Pershing had taken the command and that Funston was leaving to command the Southwestern Division, Oklahoma City. The secretary of war wanted Pershing to remain in San Francisco only until January 1 when he was to ship to the Philippines to succeed a retiring general. Pershing, however, departed San Francisco only 10 days after assuming command.

While the military reason for his departure remains unknown, *The San Francisco Call* in December 1906 headlined an article "Filipino Spouse is Pershing's Undoing." His Filipino marriage that allegedly produced two children "is said to explain Pershing's hurried departure from San Francisco." *The Call* probably got its information from the *Manila American* that

broke the story. Pershing denied the story and returned to the Philippines where he served three more tours. He would later return to San Francisco and the Presidio.[29]

The time had come, too, for Col. Charles Morris to turn over the Presidio to a successor. He had served as the commanding officer for the past 38 months. Morris transferred to another coast artillery post, Fort Williams in Maine. The new commanding officer, Col. John A. Lundeen, took over the Presidio of San Francisco before the last day of November.

It had been a trying year. The Presidio and the other army posts had been called upon to rescue the stricken city and its inhabitants. On the whole the troops and their officers had performed well despite the immense problems they faced in April and the following months. General Funston later received criticism for his forceful actions in the first days following the earthquake even though in his very first orders and succeeding instructions he placed the troops under the civil authorities. A few soldiers tarnished the endeavors and accomplishments of the many. The U.S. Army had performed well and the city and fort relationships were strengthened even further — after 60 years of association.

Chapter 14 Notes:

1. Board of Fire Commissioners, San Francisco, February 20, 1904, to Morris, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

2. PSF, Post Returns, March 1906: Company B, Hospital Corps. Troops I, K, and M, 14th Cavalry. Companies 10, 27, 29, 38, 60, 65, 66, 70, and 105, Coast Artillery. Batteries 1, 4, and 24, Field Artillery. Companies I and L, 22d Infantry.

3. G. R. Nugent, March 7, 1906, to post adjutant, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

4. General Orders 1, January 4, 1906; Capt. Burgess, January 12, 1906, to Mrs. James Gentry and January 31 to R. Patterson, Letters Sent; Morris, February 26, 1906, to Department of California, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

5. Jocelyn, *Mostly Alkali*, p. 374.

6. M. L. Walker, May 11, 1906, General Correspondence 1894–1923, OCE, RG 77, NA.

7. Adolphus Washington Greely entered the Army as an enlisted man during the Civil War. By the end of that war he held the rank of captain and had been wounded three times. In 1882 he led a scientific expedition of 25 men to the Canadian arctic, 1882–1883 having been designated the first International Polar Year. Supply and relief ships failed to reach the base camp on Ellesmere Island in both 1882 and 1883 and during the winter of 1883 all of the expedition died except Greely and six men. Rescued in June 1884, Greely at first received criticism for the disaster, but it soon became clear that he had exercised good leadership. Praise came his way, and in 1887 he was promoted four ranks to brigadier general and became the Army's Chief Signal Officer. He held that rank until arriv-

ing at San Francisco as a major general. Greely retired in 1908. McHenry, ed., *Webster's American Military Biographies*.

8. Frederick Funston, "How the Army Worked to Save San Francisco," *Cosmopolitan Magazine*, 40: 239–243. A few days later the Army prepared a list of properties it leased in the city at that time:

> One building, 649–657 Mission Street, Quartermaster and Medical Supply Depot, monthly rent $1,500
> One building, 40–42 and 44 Spear Street, Subsistence Storehouse, $400.
> One building, Folsom and Spear Streets, Quartermaster Storehouse, $425.
> One building, 1221 Pine Street, Stable Quartermaster Depot, $75.
> 4th Floor, Phelan Building, Market and O'Farrell streets, Office for Department of California, $900.
> 8th Floor, Grant Building, Office for Pacific Division, $333.
> One building, New Montgomery, Jessie, and Annie streets, Quartermaster Offices and Storeroom, $667.
> 3 rooms, Rialto Building, Recruiting Station, $100.
> Wharf, Folsom Street, Transport Service, $1,500.
> Wharf, Washington Street, *General McDowell*, $120.
> Wharf, Washington Street, *General Mifflin*, $120.
> Offices: Total, $6,139 per month.

Officers and men associated with these activities occupied rented quarters in the city. "List of Property Rented in San Francisco, Calif." April 23, 1906, General Correspondence 1890–1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA. Back in 1898 when Funston waited at San Francisco to go overseas, he married Miss Ella Blankhart, an Oakland socialite. They lost their fine home near Nob Hill in the earthquake and fire.

9. Funston, "How the Army Worked," pp. 244–247; Morris, July 7, 1906, to Department of California, Letters Sent, RG 393. Although the engineer troops from Fort Mason had orders to shoot looters, it is quite clear from the reports of all five officers that they had no cause to fire their weapons.

10. Colonel Devol had earlier served as the construction quartermaster at Fort Yellowstone, Wyoming, during the time the Cavalry administered the national park. He retired from the Army with the rank of major general in 1916. Later, his son-in-law, Maj. George H. Brett, became the first commanding officer of Crissy Field at the Presidio.

11. Quartermaster general, Washington, April 19, telegrams; and April 21 to chief quartermaster, Department of California; Military secretary, War Department, April 25, 1906, to Northern and Southwestern Divisions, General Correspondence 1890–1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA; Robert A. Wilson and Bill Hosokawa, *East to America, A History of the Japanese in the United States* (New York: William Morrow, 1980), p. 53.

12. Greely, April 26, 1906, to War Department; Devol, May 4, 5, and 10, 1906, to quartermaster general, General Correspondence 1890–1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA. Added to the Army's expenses were the $2.5 million worth of quartermaster supplies lost in the fires.

13. Chief quartermaster, Fort Mason, April 21, 1906, to War Department, General Correspondence 1890–1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA; A. W. Greely, *Reminiscences of Adventure and Service* (1927), p. 224; Kinnard, "History of the Golden Gate," pp. 316–318.

14. M. L. Walker, May 11, 1906, to A. Mackenzie, General Correspondence 1894–1923, OCE, RG 77, NA; *Presidial Weekly Clarion*, April 27, 1906.

15. Greely, April 23, 1906, to War Department, General Correspondence 1890–1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA; Thomas and Witts, *San Francisco Earthquake*, p. 273, describes Funston's imposition of "near martial law."

16. *The San Francisco Call*, April 27, 1906; Thomas and Witts, *Earthquake*, p. 273.

17. *Presidial Weekly Clarion*, April 27, 1906; Adolphus W. Greely, *Earthquake in California*, April 18, 1906 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1906), map.

18. Thomas and Witts, *Earthquake*, pp. 131–132.

19. Funston, "How the Army Worked," p. 248.

20. Greely, *Earthquake*, p. 12, and *Reminiscences*, p. 220. See also James J. Hudson, "The California National Guard in the San Francisco Earthquake and Fire of 1906," *California Historical Quarterly*, 55: 137–149.

21. *Complete Story of the San Francisco Horror*. Introduction by Samuel Fallows (n.p.: Hubert D. Russell, 1906), p. 172.

22. Walker, May 11, 1906, to chief of engineers, General Correspondence 1894–1923, OCE, RG 77, NA; Commanding officer, 9th Battery, Field Artillery (FA), June 1, 1906, to commanding officer, PSF; and L. V. Coleman, May 2, 1906, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

23. Morris, June 30, 1906, to Department of California, Letters Sent RG 393; Proceedings of a Board of Officers, May 18, 1906; J. L. Clem, June 20, 1906, Report of Earthquake Damage; Chief quartermaster, Department of California, May 1, 1906, to quartermaster general, General Correspondence 1890–1914, OQMG, RG 92; PSF Special Orders 111, May 9, 1906, Post Orders 1906–1907; C. H. McKinstry, May 8, 1906 to chief of engineers, San Francisco District Letters Received, OCE, RG 77, NA; Bearss, *Fort Point*, pp. 325–334; *Baltimore Sun*, April 25, 1906.

24. Morris, June 30, 1906, to Department of California, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA. The field artillery remained at the Presidio much longer than did Colonel Morris.

25. *Ibid.*

26. *Ibid.*, Morris, September 13, 1906, to Department of California, Letters Sent; Ferguson, June 19, 1906, to Adjutant, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA; Erna Risch, *Quartermaster Support of the Army, A History of the Corps, 1775–1939* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1989), p. 587.

27. Morris, Report of Construction of Post Schools, February 11, 1906, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA.

28. PSF Special Orders 160, July 11, 1906; Circular 12, June 20, 1906; and General Orders 27, June 26, 1906; Morris, June 1, 1906, to Department of California, RG 393; Hazard, December 12, 1906, to quartermaster general, General Correspondence 1890–1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

29. *The San Francisco Call*, October 21, 23, November 3, and December 20 and 21, 1906; Donald Smythe, *Guerrilla Warrior The Early Life of John J. Pershing* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1973), pp. 125–130. Ironically, the *Call* had followed Pershing's career in the past, noting his 1905 marriage to Helen Frances Warren, the daughter of Senator Francis E. Warren, Wyoming, as well as Pershing's promotion to general.